WEATHER: Wet

9 PAGES OF MUSIC IN THE TABLOID

JUDGING OASIS; HANGING WITH THE FUGEES; DECODING VERDI



THE COMMENTATORS PAGE 19





Mud tops the festival bill as rain rules centre court

Paul McCann

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THE AMERICAN

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at the Alberta

The Glastonbury Festival site has turned into a bog of melted chocolate" awaiting the 90,000 music fans who will show up today looking for a good time.

But while mud and rain is viewed as an essential part of the Glastonbury experience, tennis fans at Wimbledon were faced with a second day of continuous rain. Play was finally abandoned without a ball being struck at 6pm and Alan Mills, the tournament referee, said he was considering another People's Sunday, when anyone could turn up and get into

Wimbledon just by queueing. By this stage in the tournament 226 matches should have been completed but by Wednesday evening only 94 matches

had been played. Meanwhile in Somerset, police advised everyone going to Glastonbury to take wellingtons and warm, waterproof clothing and to prepare for parking delays because of the mud. But outdoor clothing specialists in central London were reporting that they had sold out of wellingtons.

Tractor-loads of stones and wood chips were yesterday being hrought in to cover the sludge, and gas heaters were being set up. At one point yes-terday the police described conditions as "total chaos", with only one of the 14 access

lanes to the site passable. The majority of campers will arrive today, but the site had already become a quagmire yesterday, a festival spokesman said. "More and more mud just keeps oozing up out of the ground," one steward said. "You could say it looks like a bog of

melted chocolate," he added. The festival is facing its biggest wash-out since 1985 when most festival-goers gave up the battle to stay dry and learned to love the mud after it rained non-stop from Friday

evening to Sunday afternoon. Michael Eavis, owner of the farm where the festival is held, tried to put a cheery spin on the weather: "It's going to be gloomy in the skies," he said. "but very promising on the ground. It's like an outward bound course ... It's character-building for our youngsters and will make them better and stronger."



Police have closed off the eastbound carriageway of the A361 near Pilton and warned anyone not going to the festival to give the area a wide berth. Forecasts for the weekend

ahead predict more rain. ■ Michael Eavis hit out yesterday at an article in this week's Big Issue magazine which describes how people without tickers managed to get through the festival's fence. "I am furious about this ... It is quite unbelievable and

completely counterproductive for our cause," he said. Adding to organisers' worries are reports that the campaign group Reclaim the Strects is

planning an organised assault on the perimeter fence as a protest at the end of free festivals.



cil which has been hit by a number of allegations of im-propriety, including a statement

last year by Mr Randall that the

council was "corrupt". The

council denied this vehemently.

Doyle, the leader of the coun-

cil, said that he had asked the

NEC to hold an investigation so

that "the detractors (anony-

mous or named) will be asked

to produce evidence to sub-

stantiate specific complaints". Mr Black, who is also hous-

ing chairman of the city coun-

cil, has been suspended by the

NEC from holding any party of-

fice until an investigation into

the affair is completed. A coun-

Earlier this month, Pat

Brown's radical Budget

Diane Coyle **Economics Editor** Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Gordon Brown will signal a long-term overhaul of the tax and benefit systems in next Wednesday's Budget. He will also announce radical plans to reshape the entire Budget

Beyond the central measures of his welfare-to-work scheme for the young and long-term unemployed, financed by the windfall tax, the Chancellor will outline his intention to improve work incentives and reduce the burden of taxation on

the low-paid.

The Budget will also emphasise the use of the tax system to cut back on pollution and encourage energy-saving. The Chancellor and John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday met in private to discuss the inclusion of "green taxes" work task force, headed by Mar-

They discussed a hike in the duty on petrol and diesel, and it is believed there will be increases in other environmental taxes, such as the landfill tax, while VAT on loft insulation is expected to be cut in line with the reduction in VAT on domestic fuel from 8 per cent to 5 per cent.

Tony Blair staked out the Government's commitment to reducing greenhouse gases in his speech to the United Nations on Monday, in a clear signal that more green taxes are on the way. The long-term options being considered include road tolls, road pricing, and re-placing the road fund licence

are mortgage interest tax relief and the married couples' allowance, which between them cost £5.5bn a year. Tax relief on

cal figure having pushed through the country's first Housing Ac-

tion Trust, a Tory initiative that

involved part-privatising council estates. His work on the coun-

cil has been praised by Mr Prescott, the MP for Hull East.

MP just before the election af-

ter a battle with Mr Black

whom he was suing for libel be-

cause Mr Black alleged he was

Mr Black issued a statement last night saying that the Labour Party had informed him that it

was a "technical and adminis-

trative suspension to enable

the inquiry to proceed." He de-

clined to comment when con-

unsuitable to be an MP.

Mr Randall stood down as an

pension contributions, which channels about £6bn a year to

t on pension contributions. This ries in with the approach being taken by the welfare-to-

RUST-BUCKET

which will form a key part of the Budget.

tin Taylor, chief executive of Barciays. The Chancellor favours boosting low incomes through tax credits in order to get around the way the loss of benefits reduces the incentive to work. Welfare-to-work will be the core theme of the Budget, and Mr Brown will give details of the training and education schemes to be offered to 18- to 25-year-

Senior ministers believe that olds with the money raised Britain, like California, will not from the windfall tax on the privatised utilines. The Chancelobject to taxes that are seen as environmentally friendly, makfor is expected to confirm the ing Mr Prescott's superministry. scrapping of universal child in charge of the environment, transport and the regions, a vehicle for new tax revenues.

with higher petrol duties. The Chancellor is expected to confirm the Government's manifesto piedge to introduce a 10c starting rate of income tax.

Mr Brown will indicate plans to shift away from expensive tax reliefs and allowances that disproportionately help the well-off. The most vulnerable of these

benefit for 16- to 18-year-olds, in return for means tested edtop rate taxpayers, is a longerucational allowances. term candidate for reform. The With an emphasis on creatmost likely alternative would be

ing jobs and boosting investto introduce a flat-rate tax credment in the long term in his Budget speech, Mr Brown is expected to encourage companies to retain profits for investment rather than paying them as dividends by ending the dividend tax credit claimed by pension funds. The move will harm profits in the short term, but the proceeds could be channelled

back to companies. The Chancellor will set out a new approach to future Budgets. He will draw a parallel between the transparency he has introduced to the setting of interest rates, by making the Bank of England independent and accountable, and the need for the same kind of openness about taxes and spending.

In his speech on Wednesday he will also set out the Government's intendon to run a macrocconomic policy that delivers stable growth and low inflation, setting this in the context of the need to remain

competitive in a global market. The recent assessment of the Treasury's economic assumptions by the National Audit Office made it plain that Mr Brown has taken a cautious approach to public finances. Actual government borrowing this year and next could well be lower than the Budget "Red Book" will indicate because the economic boom will boost tax revenues.

Don Macintyre, page 19

2-S August

1-4 October



GOLO GUP



SILVER AUCKET

POLO, VEUVE CLISCOUOT GOLD GUP, COMBRAY PARA	8 June -20 July
HENLEY ROTAL REGATTA	2-6 July
SED CORNHILL TEST MATCH V AUSTRALIA, OLD TRAFFORD	3-7 july
HAMPTON COUPT PALACE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW	9-15 July
HENLEY FESTIONS OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS	S-12 July
BRITISH CRANG PRIX, SALPERSTONE	18 July
128TH OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP, ROYAL TROOM	17-20 July



CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

Labour suspends Prescott's ally Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent continue as housing chairman because the suspension only rein the Labour-dominated coun-Mr Black is a controversial lo-



Good friends; Margaret Black and her husband John, with



NTS	THE BROADSHEET Business & City 21-24 Comment17-19
1	Foreign newsti-16
ខ	Gazette20 Home news2-10

A prominent Labour politician

and friend of John Prescott, the

Deputy Prime Minister, has

been suspended by the Labour Party over allegations that he as-

saulted three people at an elec-

Committee is investigating allegations that John Black, who

is chairman of the Hull city party, attacked a former Humber-

side councillor, David Harris, and John Cherry, the agent of the former Hull MP Stuart

Randall, at a victory rally a week

after last month's election. The NEC is conducting a

Labour's National Executive

tion victory party.

Leading articles	17
Letters	
Obituarles	20
Shares	24
Sport	
Unit trusts	

7	THE TABLOID
7	
)	
ı	Classical music .16-18
3	Feature8,9
5	Games22

lated to Labour Party posts.

A Labour Party source said:

We are going to use this incident to carry out a full-scale in-

quiry into Hull as we have been

worried about events there for

some time." The remit is un-

derstood to include investigation of complaints about Mr Black's

expenses when he was Lord

Mayor two years ago. Mr Black

A letter obtained by *The Independent* detailing the complaint from Mr Cherry says

that he and Mr Harris were

leaving the celebration when

they were jumped on and

abused by a group which in-

has denied any wrongdoing.

ta	tacted by The Independent.							
	John Lyttle	3						
,7	Listings	.20,21						
19	Rock							
18	Style							
,9	TV & radio	,23,24						
22	Weather							

significant shorts

Committee may examine MP's expulsion claims Claims by a rebel Labour MP that be was threatened with expulsion

over devolution could be investigated by Westminster's powerful Standards and Privileges Committee, it emerged last night. As the row over allegations by Llew Smith exploded into an angry exchange of letters between William Hague and the Prime Minister, a member of the committee suggested that Mr Blair should look to his laurels. Peter Bottomley, a former Conservative minister, said that if Mr Smith complained to the committee as he

had threatened to do, it should take the maner seriously. Last night, Mr Smith said he was considering his next move, but confirmed he was considering a complaint to the Standards and Privileges Committee. He had spoken to the chief whip, Nick Brown, yesterday afternooo and had been told he would not be disciplined for speaking out egainst his party, he said. Fran Abrams

Health authorities advised not to sue

Health minister Tessa Jowell has warned health outhorities not to sue tobacco companies for the costs of treating smokers' illnesses. Mrs Jowell said she did not want to see health anthorities tied up in costly legal action. The decision on whether to sue should be

made by the Government, she insisted. A group of health authorities led by Croydon in south London had earlier appeared ready to sue the tobacco industry, buoyed up by last week's historic £225bn legal settlement in America. US tobacco companies have agreed to pay the mooey into a compensation fund to help cancer victims in return for legal immunity. It has been estimated that a similar group action against British tobacco firms could net £25bn. Jeremy Laurance

Tory sleaze report expected soon



The go-ahead for publication of the report into the sleaze allegations against Neil Hamilton, the former Tory minister (pictured), is expected to given next week at the first meeting of the Commons select committee oo standards and privileges.

The committee also has to carry out its own investigation on the evideoce in the report by Sir Gordon Downey. Parliamentary Commissioner and it is likely to call Mr

Hamilton to give evidence, before producing its own findings. Gerald Howarth, a Tory MP and friend of Mr Hamilton, yesterday objected that the committee included new members, who would have no experience of Commons procedures. Colin Brown

Gas blast leaves 100 homeless

A massive blast which ripped through a south Loodon tower block yesterday morning was almost certainly caused by a gas explosion. Eight residents on the Kerrin Point estate. in Kennington, were injured by flying debris as the blast shattered every window in the 21-storey huilding and flung rubble up to 100 yards. All were treated for cuts at St Thomas' Hospital and later released. Yesterday, as investigators searched for the cause of the explosioo which has left more than 100 people without homes. Spokesmeo from Lambeth Council said the building's basement boiler room was the seat of the blast.

Corporate arts sponsorship in crisis

Corporate sponsorship of the arts is in "mid-crisis", seconding to the businessman with the biggest arts budget in the country. Rodger Broad, head of British Telecom's sponsorship programme, which will give £15m to the arts this year, said the Thatcherite dream of corporate backing was "faltering". There was a "mis-match between what the arts oeed and what they're getting". "The amount of cash sponsorship of the arts has been decreasing over the years ... If you cover up the problem for too long, the problem becomes quite a substantial one."

Mini golfer hits hole-in-one

Five-year-old Matthew Draper shot himself into the record books yesterday by becoming the youngest golfer in Britain to hit a hole-in-ooe. Matthew's father, Philip Draper, 35, and other players watched in amazement as his ball sailed down the fairway of the fourth hole at Cherwell Edge miniature golf course, at Banbury, before rolling straight into the hole. Mr Draper said: "I knew he

had hit it well but I never thought it would go all the way."

Matthew, whose hero is Nick Faldo, said: "It was good. I put my arms out and went 'Yeah'."

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NOT SO SMOOTH: A Jamaican magistrate yesterday said he would issue an arrest warrant for the singer Sade (above), after she failed to answer charges of dangerous driving. The 38-year-old, who sold millions of albums in the 1980s, and had been living in Jamaica with her partner and their child, was reported to have returned to Britain. She has already denied the charges

Mother loses rights battle for parents of premature babies

mother yesterday failed in her bid to effect a change in the law to allow parents of premature babies to insist they are given Intensive care. Kirsty Cassidy, 22, lost her case against a doctor who

decided not to resuscitate her prematurely born daughter, Rebecca, because she was "non-viable", Sheriff Principal Robert Hay, giving judgment after a fatal accident inquiry at Ayrshire County Hospital,

Scotland, said the decision made by the doctor was both reasonable and in the best interests of the child. Rebecca was born at the hospital on 7 September last rear, at between 23 and 25 weeks gestation, and weighing 1lb 4ozs. During the four-day inquiry earlier this month, Mrs Cassidy, a mother-of-two, accused her paediatrician, Or Faisal al-Zidgall, of failing In his duty to king the child

alive by resuscitating her. She described how he had come into the delivery room, where a midwife was giving the baby oxygen, took one look at the baby and said: "I am sorry, she is too small, she is not viable. There is nothing I can do." He had then

Or al-Zidgall later told the inquiry that it would have

been "futile, foolish and heroic" to try to save the baby's life. He said her heart rate was 10 heats per minute instead of 120-160 and that her skin was gelatinous and grey, indicating that there was not enough oxygenated

In his 11-page judgment yesterday, Sheriff Principal Hay said he was satisfied that "there were no reasonable precautions whereby the death might have been avoided". However, he criticised Dr al-Zidgali for classifying Rebecca's death as a spontaneous abortion instead of a five birth - a decision that was later reversed.

"If Rebecca's birth and death had been recorded accurately as a live birth and neonatal death, and not initially as a miscarriage or abortion, her parents might have been saved some unnecessity distress," he said.

Mrs Cassidy said later that she and her husband, John, would carry on the campaign and might take it to the European Court of Human Rights.

A spokeswoman for the British Medical Association said clinical decisions had to be left to the doctor. "He should be left to make them based on the evidence he Jeremy Laurance

Emily Lloyd walks out on West End

The actress Emily Lloyd last night pulled out of Pygmalion – her West End debut. Neither her agent, publicist, nor the play's producers would comment on her sudden departure.

Lloyd, hest-known for her acclaimed portrayal of the young Cynthia Payne in Wish You Were Here, was due to open on Monday in the George Bernard Shaw play at the Theatre Royal, Windsor.

The 26-year-old was to have starred as Eliza Doolittle alongside Michael Elphick and Roy Marsden. The production is due to

transfer to the Albery Theatre in the West End on 22 July, but now it will be without its star. Lloyd'a London-based agent, Ben Jones, sald: "Yes, it is true she has pulled out, but I cannot say any more."

A statement from the play's publicist was expected later. Shaw's play centres on Professor Higgins' wager with Colonel Pickering that he can transform a common Covent Garden flower girl into a lady fit to be presented at Court.

It was adapted for the screen and became a hugely auccessful film. My Fair Lady, starring Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn.

Laker to fight BA in US court

Sir Freddie Laker, the low-fare aviation pioneer, is once again taking on British Airways through the courts, it was announced yester-

Sir Freddie, who now runs Laker Airways services between Florida and the UK is suing BA in a US court over the allocation of take-off and landing slots at Gatwick airport.

In the 1980's, Sir Freddie won a 26m settlement from BA and other airlines after his claims that major carriers caused the collapse of his transatiantic Skytrain service in 1982. His victory ensured that Sir Freddie would be remembered as a plucky David fighting a ruthless and bureeucratic Goliath.

Sir Freddie filed his latest lawsuit in his adopted home town of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, under American anti-competition laws.

His airline claims BA is in violation of these laws by "exclusionary tac-tics that deny Laker Airways a fair opportunity to compete on the Mia-mi-London scheduled service route"

Sir Freddie, now 75, said: "Our efforts to resolve the matter were rebuffed by BA. It is a great pity." Randeep Ramesh

briefing

Mediation often turns blind eye to domestic violence

Mediators and welfare officers working with separating and divorcing parents orgently need to review their methods for identifying victims of domestic violence, according to research supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The study warms that women are at risk of intimidation by violeot former partners, during the mediation process, which is designed to heip couples reach agreements over money, matrimonial homes and children.

But one of the researchers, Dr Marianne Hester, of the School for Policy Studies, at the University of Bristol, said: "Our survey found that many mediators are tending to minimise the existence and impact of domestic viole oce.

Those who were least likely to screen for domestic violence were most likely to allow mediation to go ahead, with potentially Patricia Wynn Davies dangerous consequences."

SMOKING

Cigars can reduce cancer risk

Cigarette smokers who have difficulty giving up can halve their risk of dying of lung cancer or heart disease by switching to pipes

A study of 21.000 male smokers followed from the late 1970s to the early 1990s found those who had switched to pipes or cigars in the 20 years before the study began smoked less tobacco than those who continued with cigarettes, and this largely explained their reduced risk.

However, their risk was 50 per cent higher than pipe and cigar

smokers who had never smoked cigarettes, probably because of their habit of inhaling, according to the study by researchers at St Barthoinnew's and the Royal Loodon School of Medicine on hlished in the British Medical Journal.

All pipe and cigar smokers have a higher risk of lung cancer than lifelong nonsmokers - and than former smokers who have given up. Jeremy Laurance



TRANSPORT

Speed limits are largely ignored

Nearly three-quarters of drivers break the 30mph speed limit and oearly 60 per cent exceed the 70mph limit on motorways, figures out yesterday revealed. Speeding is so widespread that nearly a fifth of drivers break the 80mph limit, according to the figures from the Department for Transport and the Environment.

The figures were published on the same day as campaigners called on the Government to make road policing an integral part of the fight against crime, in an effort to reduce deaths and injuries.

Mary Williams, director for road safety group Brake, said that more tham 3,000 people died every year on the roads. She added: The death of you or your partner on the road is as likely as Johanna Montagu winning £10 next time you play the lottery.

PRISONS

Women more likely to end up inside

The theory that more women are becoming involved in crime was dismissed yesterday in a report by the National Association of Probation Officers. The report shows there has been no discernible increase in female crime but e far harsher sentencing climate. Harry Fletcher, NAPO assistant general secretary, said: "The

oumber of women convicted of serious offences has fallen during the last five years by 16 per cent, bot the female prison population increased by a staggering 76 per cent."
The report casts doubt on the potent

opsurge in incarceration. An analysis of more than 500 women in clused jails and 200 in hostels since the beginning of the year shows that offeoding was related to drug or alcohol abuse in 84 Patricia Wynn Davies

EVOLUTION

Songbirds originated Down Under

Songbirds sang their first twittering arias in Australia more than 50 million years ago, according to researchers who developed their theory after analysing some tiny scraps of fossilised booe found in the backyard of a farm in Queensland.

If correct, the theory turns current thinking about the evolution of birds on its head. Until now Australie was thought to have inherited a population of feathered travellers from elsewhere. But the new findings, reported in New Scientist, suggest that Australia was where songbird species first evolved.

The fossils were dated to 54.6 million years - nearly 25 million years older than the oldest previously known songbird fossils found in France. They come from the Tingamurra sediments, 160km oorth-west of Brisbane, a small area at the back of a farm which may have been the site of an ancient billabong, or pool.

As well as what is thought to be the world's oldest songhird, it has also produced Australia's oldest frog, bat, marsupial and

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INDEPENDENT

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ा वितायदेश cancer risk

The three astronauts on board the Mir space station face an in-creasingly oncomfortable wait of at least 10 days before they can perform an emergency spacewalk to repair the damage caused by a collision with ao-

other spacecraft.

After a day without sleep, the three men have been told to dim the lights and stop exercising in order to reduce the powdrain on the space station, which has lost more than onethird of its power following the crash on Tuesday morning as they were practising docking manocurres with an unmanned spacecraft, the Progress.

A Russian rocket with the necessary equipment to perform

'It's not like Star Wars - things don't just go in a straight line when you turn on the thruster'

the repairs, including patches for the hull and solar cell components, will be sent to Mir. But it will not take off before 4 July because of the time needed to gather the items and plan the details of the repair mission. The US space agency Nasa said last night that a Shuttle mission blasting off this weekend cannot dock with Mir, and so could not offer help.
A committee of 72 Russian

experts held a nine-hour meeting yesterday to plan the next stage of the recovery, which will require a spacewalk to fix a hole about the size of a stamp in the Spektr module, one of six on the 11-year-old station, and the damage caused to one of its solar panels, which generate power for the craft. The Spektr has been sealed off from the rest of the space station. ...

abandon Mir if necessary, tak-down. "That would do it." ing the Soyu: spacecraft which

forms one of its six modules back to Earth, Yuri Koptev, head of the Russian Space Agency, said that there is no question of doing so at present Russia fears that without anybody aboard, the 100-tonne Mir might spiral out of control back towards Earth.

The Russian Space Agency acknowledged the gravity of the situation. "After the collision we estimated the critical situation oo the Mir orbiting station at five on a seven-point scale," said deputy mission chief Sergei Krikalyov. "Now we must produce the necessary equipment for repairs."

Planning for the spacewalk will have already begun, with teams both in Russia's Space City and at Nasa using virtual neality models of the spacecraft to plan the most efficient way to carry out the repairs. The pow-er loss on board Mir has made is harder to decide what is necessary, because the crew has not been able to send back television pictures, and communications are limited to about 15 minutes during every orbit, each of which takes 45 minutes.

The virtual reality models of the space station were developed by a British company, VR Solutions of Salford. Its managing director, Bob Stone, was yesterday hopeful that the problems could be solved. He also suggested the accident could have been caused by the astronauts forgetting the simple mechanics of changing orbit. "It's not like Star Wars - things don't just go in a straight line when you turn on the thruster. When you're moving around in orbit you're actually going up and down to change speeds you get closer or further away from the Earth, and your path follows a curve, not a straight

line. Maybe they forgot that." British-born Michael Foale, 40, had to leave behind many personal effects as well as scicatific experiments when he abandoned Spektr, where he had slept. Yesterday his first request was for an electric shaver and a toothbrush: "Maybe three the crew could tubes of toothpaste," he radioed

2 My briggs to spin due to away from Sim Joseph power Crew stop spin and linin pagets back lowards Sun but stal lase. over 35 per cent of pewer-3 Emergency spacewalk is necessary to repair stamp sized tigle in Spoktr, bist cannot be carried out mab! supply ship answers in 13 days hore Progress-M carge supply craft

board Mir was not glamorous. One visiting astronaut likened it to "living inside a giant vacuum cleaner": the pumps and vents required to keep moving fresh air around the station's modules create a constant din. But they are necessary, because

Sleep is necessary but clusive; crew "lie" attached to the walls by bungee cords. But as the space station orbits the planet so quickly, darkness is replaced by light every 45 minutes. However, activities that we take for Even before the crash, life on to keep it moving as on Earth. sists that there should be an even how to use a toilet."

Spektr Module

"up" and "down", for orientation. "Everything floats up here," Dr Foale wrote to his one-year-old son by e-mail earlier this year. "I've reverted back to my childhood. I have had to learn how to clean myself, how granted on Earth become im- to brush my teeth, how to eat pant in the Mir programme, their US partners, who are there are no convection currents mensely complex. The body in- without making a mess; and yes,

Mir's past crises raise US fears

Mary Dejevsky Washington

The accident that partially disabled the Mir space station has exposed increasing tensions between the US and Russia over what had until recently been one of the symbolic successes of the post-Cold War years: superpower co-operation in space.

Yesterday, a group of US con-gressmen, headed by the chairman of the Science Committee in the House of Representatives, James Sensenbrenner, called for a re-examination of the US-Russia space co-operation agreement and asked whether Mir was safe enough for American astronauts. Since February, he said, there had been no fewer than 10 "major crises" involving Mir. "We have to make a determination if the science we are doing up there is worth the American lives we are risking," he said.

He called for a "top to bot-tom" assessment of Mir's safe-ty, including a personal guarantee from the US space administration, Nasa, that the craft meets US safety standards, before any more Americans were sent there. A bill to this effect is at present before the Senate, but has not yet been considered.

The present US participant is the British-born Michael Foale. In Washington yesterday, his father, Colin, leapt to the defence of the Mir project, saying that he had "enormous admiration" for the Russian achievement with Mir and did not think the mission should be end-ed. "And I don't think [Michael] would want that either," he told a television interviewer.

Mike McCurry, a White House spokesman, also insisted that the US remained committed to the Mir programme. Mr Sensenbrenner's call for a re-evaluation of US-Russian co-

operation, however, was echoed by other politicians, some - but not all - die-hard opponents of US-Russian space co-operation from the start. A succession of US space experts, including a former US astronaut and particiindicated that the latest accident sceptical that they will ever had widened - perhaps fatally - catch up.

an existing rift between the Americans and the Russians on co-operation in space.

They revealed that a fire oo board Mar in February had been much more serious than was appreciated on Earth at the time. rut pointed out at the same time that US and Russian interests might diverge. They noted, for instance, that Mir was equipped with an emergency craft to return the astronauts to Earth if necessary, but that it was a matter of "one out, all out"and the Russians would be likely to resist leaving the space staion unless absolutely necessary They pointed out that con-

ditions on Mir were such that leaving it unmanned, even for 24 hours, would mean in effect abandoning it. Mir requires constant maintenance that can

We have to determine if the science we are doing is worth the lives we are risking'

no longer be provided by remote control.

The Russians, they argued, would be understandably reluctant to write off an enterprise that had been a centrepiece of their space programme - and had also provided Russia with a strong bargaining counter when it negotiated its participation, on an equal basis with the US, in the International Space Station Project. Mir also earns the Russians significant amounts of hard currency at a time when their own space programme is severely short of funds.

Despite these funds, and the advances they receive for their agreed contribution to the International Space Station, the Russians are running eight months behind schedule on their parts of the project. This has disappointed and annoyed



THE QUENTIN **TARÈNTINO** OF THE KITCHEN JOHN WALSH

meets GORDON RAMSAY

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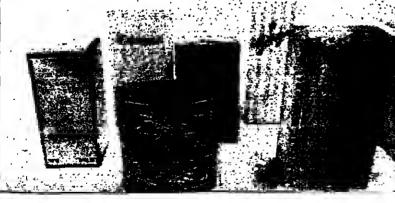
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BURLESQUE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

On the scent of the fake products...





...which devalue the real thing

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Trading standards officers are to lanach a new national database to crack down on counterfeit goods, which are now estimat-

ed to be worth 8 per cent of world trade.

In British alone last year £78m worth of fake goods were known to be in circulation and trading standards officers believe that this represents only 10 per cent of the actual trade.

The database has been tried out as part of a pilot project run by ten local authorities with the co-operation of the Federation Against Copyright Theft which combats video piracy and the Anti-Counterfeiting Groop made up of companies such as Adidas, Ray-Bans and Marks & Experience of these three parts of the content of the cont Spencer. Information on those lealing in counterfeit goods was shared between local authorities.

It is hoped the new action will help prosecutions by linking the enforcement activities and information databases of the 200-plus trading standards departments in Britain.

Firms are determined to crack down on takes as they not only lose out on sales but their name can also be tarnished by being linked to products which are often highly inferior. The American designer and perfumier Calvin Klein recruited a

team of investigators to track down the suppliers of counterfeit scent and clothing which are flooding British markets after a recent raid in North Wales found 22,000 bottles of imitation CK Be - Calvin Klein's latest perfume - with a street value es-

timated at more than £750,000. The most popular targets for counterfeiters remain clothing followed by audio cassettes. CDs, perfumes, computer soft-ware, video cassettes, watches and sunglasses. One con-man selling fake perfume in Oxford Street was found to be raking in £400 an hour.

Anthea Worsdall of the Anti-Counterfeiting Group said that packaging of fake perfume of-

buyers would be given the real thing as a tester. But when they got home, the perfume had either been nothing more than water -in some cases pond water and in one case it was said to be filled with urine.

And some products are di-rectly putting lives at risk - air-craft spares, car parts, and medical equipment are all falling victim to the fakers' craft. "We ve found examples of motor parts - such as alloy wheels which if they go on cars virtually disintegrate," said Mike Parry, spokesman for the Institute of Trading Standards ine the effect of that if the car

A database will track sales of such counterfeit goods as watches and (top) perfume, which tamish the name of the real (above)

is going at .70mph and the wheels crumble beneath you... If counterfeit parts are put into jet airlines there is a very real risk to life and limb."

One of the growing areas of selling these goods is car boot sales - a recent survey by the Economic and Social Research Council found that every week-end one million people attend them. "Car boot sales are a means through which these products are sold and trading standards officers do carry out routine checks," said Mr Parry. "Some of the areas now have lo cal registration schemes as well." Reginald Dixon, director of

FACT, said that pirate videos of films such as The Lost World and Men in Black were already in circulation in Britain although the films were not even out in the cinema, A million pirated copies of the Disney smash The Lion King were known to be in circulation. "We estimate video piracy is worth £250m in the UK alone," he said. "It is a massive problem." He said that pirates were of-

ten big business and that there had been well-established links to organised crime. "It has been proved counterfeiting funds organised crime, it funds drugs and child pornography. This is why people should think hefore buying counterfeit goods. They could be helping to fund a bomb or a bullet."

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Fire-risk prison ship abandoned

lan Burrell

The new £15m prison ship HMP Ware was floating empty of prisoners in Portland Harbour last night, less than two weeks after it took on its first inmates.

All 45 prisoners have been evacuated from the vessel, moored off the Dorset coast, and moved into more standard jail accommodation hecause the ship is a fire risk.

The episode represents a major embarrassment to the prison service, which gave the go-ahead to the floating jail despite concerns expressed by local fire chiefs.

The prisoners were moved out on Wednesday and spent a night in Verne prison at Portland before being transported yesterday to the Hollesley Bay prison at Woodbridge in Suffolk.

The only people on board the prison last night were a team of contractors who were working to repair the vessel's fire safety sprinkler system which was found to he

The signs had not been good when the first 21 prisoners were moved onto the Wearc a fortnight ago, the first British prisoners to be

Inmates moved ashore from £15m vessel

beld on a prison hulk since Victorian times.

Within hours they were evacuated as the fire alarms went off. No fire was found and prison officials in-

sisted that the vessel was safe. But Frances Crook, director of the Howard League for Penal Reform. said the Weare was an "accident waiting to happen". Now she has been

David Wilson, senior policy adviser to the Prison Reform Trust, said: "According to the fire service, a fire on ship is the most dangerous and difficult fire to have to fight. We have always queried whether or not there were adequate contingency plans in relation to safety issues and our fears seem to have been

In prisoner jargon, a transfer is normally referred to as being "shipped out". In the case of the Weare inmates, they have been

"shipped in" for what could be a lengthy period of time asbore, although prison officials hope that they will be moved back onto the ship within days rather than wecks.

The vessel was bought in New York where it was awaiting sale for scrap for ahout £300,000.

It was towed across the Atlantic and more than £11m has been spent on converting a rusting barge, once used to house offshore workers, into a six-deck prison ship to house 400 low-risk inmates.

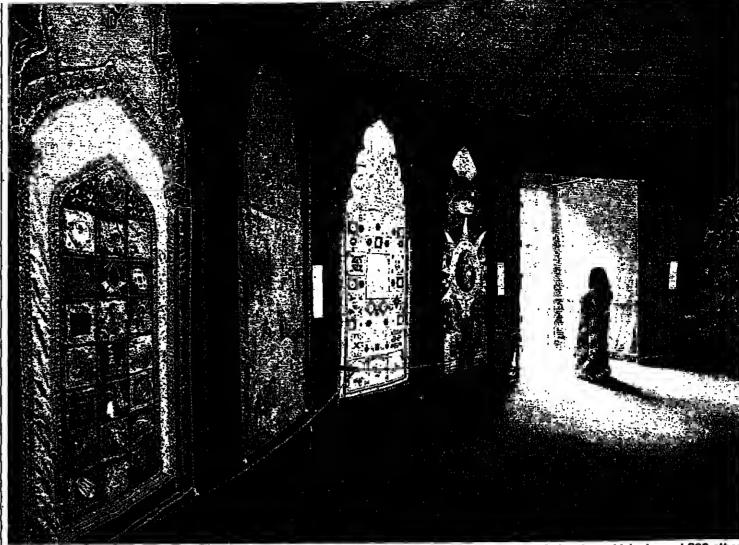
Cells are carpeted and have en suite showers, and there are sports facilities on board. In April, fire chiefs expressed con-

cerns about the thin walls between

cells and the lack of emergency access to the ship. A prison service spokeswoman said the sprinkler system bad been found to be faulty after "accidental

damage She said: "It was decided by Alan Walker, the director of operations (south), that it was in the interests of the safety of the staff and prisoners that they should be taken off

ing properly again."



Stories through stitches: A woman standing in the Mughai Tent at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, which she and 800 other the ship until the system was workwomen from nine countries have helped to create. Fifty textile narrative panels will be shown by 14 September Photograph: Tom Pilston

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Trainee teachers learn basics

Judith Judd Education Editor

Ministers yesterday postponed for a year the previous Government's plans for a national curriculum for primary teacher training.

The curriculum will for the first time lay down what trainee teachers should be taught and how they should teach. Conservative proposals to insist on nstruction in traditional teachng methods such as phonics, mental arithmetic and wbole class teaching have been adopted with few changes, However, the Government will also require trainees to show how they will use a daily literacy hour.

Teacher trainers said they were already doing what ministers wanted and accused them of being more Conservative than the Conservatives.

Teacher training colleges

One in three taught in classes of over 30 Rising class sizes were condemned yesterday by ministers

as a "shocking indictment" of the last government. Official statistics show that In January, one in three primary school children - 1.3 million - were being taught in classes of more than 30. The figure is 85,000 more than the year before - which itself showed a similar rise - and officials said the trend looked set to continue. Stephen Byers, the schools standards minister, said the statistics showed the legacy of Inaction" facing education ministers. But it strengthened their resolve to cut class sizes, he added.

have been under attack from right-wingers for encouraging "trendy" teaching methods and for failing to show new teachers how to teach the basics. From September, trainees will need to satisfy new criteria before they qualify as teachers. For instance, they will have to demonstrate that they can maintain discipline and set and

mark homework.

riculum, which was to have been compulsory from this autumn, will now be introduced in September next year. Twelve colleges and universities have volunteered to pioneer it this autumn and the Government is

inviting others to do so. Estelle Morris, the school standards minister, said: "We are determined that new teachers know how to teach the But the new primary cur- three Rs effectively, how to

maintain discipline and how to use IT to benefit their teaching

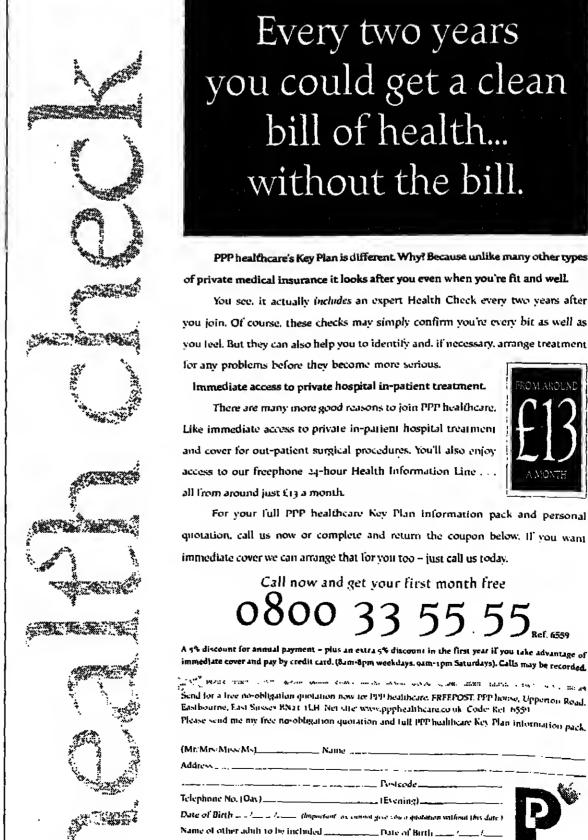
and their pupils. Anthea Millett, chief executive of the Teacher Training Agency, insisted that the proposals would raise teaching standards. While in the past trainees had been taught what to do in theory, they would, for the first time, have to show they could put the principles into practice. To qualify, new teachers will have to show that they can teach whole classes, present lessons clearly, keep order, question pupils effectively, and set bomework and targets for their pupils.

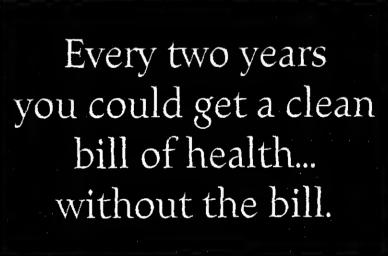
Nigel Gates of the Association of University and College Lecturers said: "This is rerun of the same movie produced by the previous government. We are not opposed to a national curriculum for teacher training but most teachers are already doing all these things."

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THE INDEPENDENT • FRIDAY 27 JUNE 1997

Mad cow disease: Farmers welcome McDonald's decision as Government revises slaughter plans CJD families angry as British beef goes back into burgers

lan Burrell

Relatives of victims of new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease reacted with anger yesterday to claims by Mc-Docald's, the fast-food chain, that British beef was safe.

The hamhurger chain announced yesterday that it would end its 15mooth ban on British heef after talks with Jack Cuoniogham, the Agriculture Minister. McDonald's managing director Andrew Taylor said that the company would start buying the beef immediately and that it would appear in restaurants in the next few weeks.

But Clive Evers, chairman of the CJD Support Network, which gives help and support to the families of vietims, said: There are families who would be dismayed at

a decision like this 'How can they and who would have very deep personal concern. All the scisay it is safe? entifie and medical Cattle are still evidence seems to point towards BSE getting BSE' being the cause [of new variant CJD].

He said 17 people had died frum the disease, a rare form of dementia for which there is oo cure. Early symptoms include unsteadiness and withdrawal from social contact. Death usually comes within a year of

Pat Mellowsbip, whuse daughter Donna, 34, is dying from new variant CJD, called McDonald's actions "totally irresponsible". Donna, a mother of two, was diagnosed as having the disease last September and ber family are convinced that she contracted it from eating hamburgers. Speaking at the

said: "How can they say it is safe? Cat-tle under 30 months are still getting BSE. If people were to see my Donna and the way she is, they would think differently, McDonald's and the Government are only interested in lining their own pockets,

"How can they say it is safe when people are still dying and families are still suffering," she said.

Mr Taylor said that McDonald's had lifted its ban in response to a renewed public confidence in British beef, The results of uur last research, conducted this month, show that 74 per cent of consumers now want us to sell British beef," he said.

Dr Cunningham welcomed the aooouncement, saying: "This is good news for farmers, the food industry and consumers. British

beef goes through the strictest controls in the world and it most certainly can be eaten confidence." He added: "The sooner the European

Union takes action towards lifting the export ban on British beef, the better it will be for beef farmers throughout the EU. I will continue to press the case in Europe to get this high quality British product back on international markets.

McDonald's banned British beef in March last year amid fears that CID could be caught from eating BSE-infected meat. Mr Taylor said that research undertaken by the company at that time showed that 70 per cent of the public did not want to buy British beef products from McDonald's. "We London, yesterday, Ms Mellowship beef is safe," he said. "Last year we re-



Matter of taste: A young customer tucking into a burger at McDonald's yesterday Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

sponded to our customers' concerns and our actions reassured them that they could trust us to do the right thing," McDonald's will continue tu import

beef from other Europeao countries - the company huys beef from Ireland, the Netherlands and Italy - but suprequirements to be standardised.

McDonald's, which by lifting the ban will save 10p-15p per pound of beef it uses, has 760 restaurants in the UK. selling £50m worth of beef every year. At the time it banned British beef, Mc-Donald's was spending £25m a year on 7,000 cattle a week.

ald's move and urged other fast food at last paid off."

chains, including Burger King, to fol-low its lead. Farmers' Union of Wales president Bob Parry said: "McDonald's decision means our industry can take a tremendous stride forward.

"We are delighted that our lengthy campaign to get McDocald's to put

Ministers in U-turn over cattle cull policy

Michael Streeter

The Ministry of Agriculture has been instructing vets to slaughter the wrong cattle in the BSE cull and has now been forced to change its policy in a move which could cost the taxpayer millions of pounds.

Mioisters, have instructed officials to make a U-turn on the selective culling of animals at risk from BSE in an effective admission that disease-free cattle hove been killed - while others poteotially carrying it have sur-

These latest alterations have caused widespread dissatisfaenon among many ministry vets. who are carrying the brunt of the changes, and will now have to review many herds they have already examined. Valuers will also need to revisit some farms.

The different approach in the culling, which was originally designed to help restore European confidence after the outhreak of BSE, was decided by the new team of ministers early in June. The information was circulated to ministry vets late last week, and to farmers over the week-

The extra costs will come from increased clerical and staff costs, payments to valuers and extra "ex-gratia" payments for disruption and loss of breeding stock to those farmers whose animals were killed unnecessarily. Some sources suggest the extra cost could be up to £3m, though the ministry yesterday stressed that it was far oo soon to estimate. One senior yet told The In-

dependent: "There is a lot of confusion and in some places the reviewing of herds has been stopped while we sort out what's going on."

The new culling procedures,

after the slaughter so far of around 6,500 animals.

Farmers are paid the value of the animal, the cost of ninetenths of a replacement, plus a dislocation allowance.

Under the old procedures, those cattle selected für slaughter- a "cohort"- were chosen according to the calendar period in which they were born, the period running from 1 July to 30

This meant that cattle thought to he at risk born in, say June, would be lumped together with those born up to 11 months beforehand, and who may bave had different feeding and other experiences. But cattle born just a few weeks later in July might be excluded from the cull, even though they are elose in age and experience to the "at-risk" animal.

In its writtee briefing to regional vets, the ministry aceepts the earlier arrangement caused "anomalies" and a cohort will now consist of cattle born six months either side of the BSE case.

It adds: "We propose to write to all farmers who may be affected to advise them of the change in policy and of their right to make representations to us un their case where they feel they have been adversely affected by the change. If the aoimals have already been slaughtered an ex-gratia payment may be appropriate if it can be demonstrated that a financial loss was incurred as a re-

lan Gardiner, director of policy for the National Farmers Union, welcomed the new policy as more sensible, and one they had previously urged, but regretted the route by which the decision was reached.

A ministry spokeswoman with year-round calving, come fairer for farmers."

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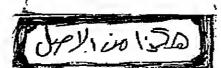
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In the frame: Left viewers standing i front of With and Against the Times by Chris Thompso in the final-year postgraduates' exhibition at the Royal Academy Thom Winterburn with part of one of his exhibits Photographs: John Voos



The art of tradition

There will be no dead animals or close-up videos of bodily orifices in the final-year show for post-graduates at Britain's oldest surviving training school for artists when the exhibition opens today. But studeots at the Royal Academy Schools in Piccadilly, central Londoo - known as a bastioo of tradition - are more

than happy to face comparison with their trendier rivals the Royal College of Art or Goldsmiths'. The harriers do appear to be hreaking down. In September, the heart of the avant garde in the form of Charles Saatchi's

collection of the best of young British artists is

most lucrative art prize, the £26,000 NatWest Award, said the Royal Academy was never that stuffy anyway. "There is a real breadth of work here and always has been," he said. Tradition runs strongly none the less. Yesterday Thom Winterhurn, 27, was proudly surveying the make-up wounds in the gory photographs which form part of his final show hut he admitted the £5,000 Royal Society of

Portrait Painters' Ondaatje Gold Medal that he won was as conventional as honours come.

It leads to commissions, he said, "but you are

paioting dogs, wives and daughters".

coming to the main Royal Academy galleries as the highlight of the autumn season. But

Max Mosscrop, 34, winner of the country's

Straw sets up review of football tragedy

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

CD SYSTEN

An examination of new cyidence from the 1989 Hillsborough football stadium disaster will be set in train on Mooday by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. The review, to be announced

statement, is expected to be headed by a judge or QC who will study previously unseen evidence which the families of those who died have suhmitted to the Home Office.

Members of the Hillsborough Family Support Group will meet Mr Straw beforehand to discuss the development. The treasurer of the group, Joan Traynor, whose sons Christopher, 26, and Kevin, 16, lost their lives in the tragedy, said: "All we want is the truth. It has never come out officially. We just waot to know why our children died."

Phil Hammond, the group's secretary, whose son Phillip died, said: "We know they can't run the whole inquiry again but we would like them to look at the main points we have raised and whether we are right or wrong. Obviously we think we

The fatal crush that led to the deaths of 96 fans came after po-fice decided to relieve crowd pressure at the FA Cup semifinal match between Liverpool and Nottingham Forrest in April 1989 by opening gates at the Sheffield Wednesday ground. Relatives who were at the match or watching television at home looked on in horror as the tragedy unfolded. A 1990 inquest recorded ver-

dicts of accidental death, but the late Lord Taylor of Gosforth's blame with South Yorkshire police. Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield, the senior

All loan-amounts

BRITAIN'S BIGGES FLECTRICAL STOR

grounds of ill-health. The force has since been found negligent in a series of legal actions brought by victims' families and rank and file officers trau-

matised by the tragedy. Calls for a new examination of the events were heightened with the screening of last December's docu-drama by the nim-maker Jimmy McGovern. prompting fresh claims by vietims' families of a cover-up.

The Crown Prosecution Ser vice has studied video footage discovered in the archives of Yorkshire Television which South Yorkshire police previously said was of too poor quality to be made available to the Taylor inquiry or the inquest.

The families also believe that more could have been done to save the lives of those injured in the crush. A doctor who helped treat more than a dozen of the injured says that one utes after the coroner decided that the victims must have been dead. Dr Stefan Popper, the Sheffield coroner, declined to hear evidence of what hap-pened after 3.15pm on the day.

Anne Williams, the mother of one teenage victim, has gathered evidence that he was alive 45 minutes after the inquest Morris, the Attorney-General.

for a new inquest on het som.

"Kevin did not die from traumatic asphyxia at 3.15 as claimed by the coroner," she said "He died because of a neck otomy below the obstruction but the swelling of the bones closed his airway. That would have taken half to three-quarters of an hour to happen.

It is not possible to say of this stage where the review of evidence could eventually lead. But there are hopes that the original inquest verdict could be overturned and some families operational officer was sus-pended and then retired on the prosecutions of police officers.

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news

Lottery watchdog wants more bite

The director general of Oflot, the National Lottery regulator. said yesterday that he wanted stronger regulatory teeth" with which to ensure lottery operator Camelot does not breach licence terms.

Peter Davis also said that he thought Camelot's reputation had "certainly suffered" over the awarding of huge bonuses to its directors, and he would be discussing the issue with them. Speaking at the launch of problem.
Oflot's annual report for "It was 1996/97, Mr Davis said Oflot had the ability, in extreme cases, either to rescind Camelot's lottery licence, which runs for seven years, argo to court in order to enforce its licence. But he wanted the ability to impose

infringements. "I want to see stronger teeth
this has been on the table for

'substantial" financial penalties

to deal with less serious licence

raised it with the Secretary of annum," he said.

He cited the situation this year when Camelot had been unable to produce the required number of retail outlets for lottery tickets.

This "serious breach", he said, was exacerbated by the fact that information the organisation submitted in Office was incorrect. Ofint threatened to take Camelot to court, and the lottery operator corrected the

imposition of a financial penalty would have been entirely ap-propriate," Mr Davis said. He would not be drawn on the level of fines he wished to

"It was a situation where the

impose, but said they should be "substantial". The level of penalty that is

necessary is one which will reflect the gravity of a licence breach but will also be mean-

Camelot's executives were recently beavily criticised for awarding themselves massive bonuses, despite a fall in ticket sales. Mr Davis refused to com-ment on how much Cameint's executives should be paid hut said that if public disquest about the matter were proven to affect sales he would intervene, as his remit was to ensure that the National Lottery is able to pay

the maximum to good causes. "If I felt that that was failing to meet statutory objectives then it would be right for me to talk to them about it," Mr Davis said. He agreed that Ofint was "the guardian of the image of the Natinnal Lottery" and said it would be under this guise that he would be talking to Camelot's di-

rectors about their pay-"Camelnt's reputation has certainly suffered from the handling of the directors remuner-

icisms that he had not been "vigorous enough" in his dealings with Camelot, until the Gov-

sponse. "The only point I would make is that comparison between regulation of the lottery and regulation of some other in-dustries, utilities for example, are extremely difficult," Mr Davis said. During the period covered by

the report last year, overall ticket sales, including both scratchcards and nn-line sales, dropped £500m from £5.2bn to £4.7bn — with a loss of £143m

to the good causes fund. However, Mr Davis said the lottery was still way ahead of initial targets. The Offot annual report states that for the duration of Camelor's licence the company will be donating 30 per cent of sales to good causes, 2 per cent more than estimated. He said in the year to March, £1.44bn was

Bow group pulls musical strings in the City



Nell Catchpole playing viola with the Gogmagogs in Gigagain, an extravaganza directed by Lucy Bailey at the Bridewell Theatre for the City of London Festival until 5 July Photograph: Laurie Lewis

DAILY POEM

packing

By Jean 'Binta' Breeze

walkin out dis place packin mi bag neat property to protec no workers to neglec no politician fren no drugs man weh a go len

cyaan kill de battyman or sell out to foreign plan nor kiss no govament ass jus waan get aff de crass ame decency

walkin out dis place nice an easy

This poem comes from Jean 'Binta' Breeze's third collection, On the Edge of an Island (Bloodaxe Books, £7.95), which includes prose as well as verse among its "stories ... from somewhere behind God's back, as we would say in Jamaica". She reads her work on a cassette available from 57 Productions, Riding on de Riddym.

Queen accepts Aitken's exit

Kim Sengupta

The disgraced former minister Jnnathan Aitken's journey into political wilderness, following his humiliation in the High Court reached a new milestone yesterday, when the Queen acepted his resignation from the Privy Council.

The one-time Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Defence procurement minister joined an inglorious list of three others who had either resigned or been struck-off from the Privy Council this century.

A brief statement issued by Downing Street said: "The Queen has approved at his own request that the name of Jonathan William Patrick Aitken Esq he removed from the list of Privy Councillors."

Cabinet Office after the collapse

of his libel action against The

Mr Aitken had offered his resignation in a letter to the

Guardian and Granada TV, the makers of World in Action. He is at present in hiding abroad. He now faces a Scotland Yard investigation into allega-

tions that he committed perjury and attempted to perven the course of justice. Mr Aitken, his wife Lolicia, and teenage daughter Victoria are expected to be interviewed under caution by detectives in the near future.

It is believed that Mr Aitken, who lost his Thanet South in the last election, had been persuaded by friends and senior members of the Conservative Party that he should resign and spare embarrassment to the Queen and the new Tory leader William Hague.

There are reports that Mr Aitken is at present in the US where he is preparing to write a book on his downfall. He has told friends that he intends to return weeks to face police questioning

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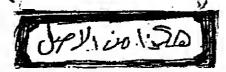
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مكذا من ألاصل

A royal price: Lord HIndlip, Christie's international chairman, receiving the final bid ~ £120,301 - for the 'Travolta dress' Photograph: Ron Frehn/AP

Christa Worthington New York

gone...

Diana's

dresses

raise

£3.5m

Worn as Charles admitted

adultery on TV; £39,200

There was not a drag queen in sight as more than 1,000 people jammed Christie's Park Avenue salerooms at the auction of Diana, Princess of Wales's wardrobe of 79 dresses and ball gowns worn primarily on state occasions from

Instead, ladies from deepest Georgia and Tennessee, dripping drawls and golly-gosh enthusiasms, came for a piece of Diana, their Judith Krantz heroine come to life.

The Princess, back in England at the time of the sale, successfully emerged from this divestiture of royal relics as the protagonist of a new drama; that of patron saint of the very good cause.
In all, the sale of Diana's cast offs

raised \$5.7m (£3.5m) to fight Aids and breast cancer, a record for a charity eveot says Lord "Charlie" Hindlip, Christie's international chairman and the evening's auctioneer, Almost £2m came from the dresses. Another £1.1m was earned by the sale of coffee-table catalogues and additional monies were raised by fundraisers in New York and London.

As anticipated by Christie's, the sale drew a new kind of buyer, often a novice hidder eoticed by the catalogue and the lack of a reserve hid. The bridal designer Par Kerr, of Memphis, Tennessee, bought four dresses to add to her collection of 10,000 pieces of royal memo-tendance. The takings will benefit the

No 1 (£120,301): Ink-blue silk velvet gown by Victor Edelstein in which Diana danced with John Travolta at the White House dur-ing a stale banquer given by President Ronald Reagan in 1985. No 2 (£81,203): Catherine Walker's strap-less evening dress and jacket with high collar, in white crèpe silk, which Diana wore for the 1989 British Fashion Awards in

London. No 3 (£48,120): Again by Edelstein, an embroidered dinner dress and bolero in

er of the auction catalogue
No 4 (£45,113): A white sari-style silk chiffon gown by Gina Fratmi for Hartnell.
No 5 (£40,902): Walker's short, draped cocktail dress in grey silk, which Diana wore to the Serpentine Gallery, London.

No 6 (£39,699): By Hachi, a long, embroldered dinner dress in cream silk chif-

the crowd featured a self-described "Di-

ana fanatie" with Diana dolls strung from

his shoulders, and a collector of celebri-

ty memorabilia eager to add to his stash

of shirts worn by Elvis and Donna Reed's

Princess of Wales, the newly casual and

modern magazine cover girl, the editors

of Vogue and Harper's Bazaar were in at-

No doubt out of deference to the

earrings from It's a wonderful Life.

oyster duchesse satin, featured on the cov-

■ Walker had 50 dresses in the sale and Edelstein 10. Fratini, Hachi and Stambofian scored hits with their only entries in Aids Crisis Trust and the Royal Marsrabilia dating from 1700, Wearing T-shirts and tuxes and looking unlike most auden Hospital Cancer Fund in Britain and diences who come to this elite saleroom, the Aids Care Centre at New York Hos-

Material girl's garments – a cut above the rest and with a price to match

fon, which Diana wore on several occasions, including an official visit to Japan. No 7 (£39,098): Christina Stambolian's off-the-peg black cocktail dress which Diana wore at the Serpentine the night her estranged husband, interviewed on primetime television, admitted adultery.

Joint No 8 (£37,293): A halter-necked evening dress in midnight-blue silk crepe, by Edelstein, and Walker's pale-blue chif-

fon evening dress, worn by Diana at the 1987 Cannes Film Festival, and to the London opening of Miss Saigon in 1989, No. 10 (£34,887): Walker's midnight-blue and white satin cocktail dress, which

Diana were during an official visit to

Japan in 1986.

While pre-sale hype had projected earnings of \$7m (£4.2m), Lord Hindlip admitted: "\$1.6m would have been my guess. We're thrilled. I was a mite frightened that the sale had been talked up too

pital, the Harvard Aids Institute and the

Evelyn H Laudler Breast Ceoter and

Memerial Sloace-Kettering Cancer

Center in the United States.

Sale prices dropped and then rose dra- io New York.

Frock parade: Diana in the most

costly dress, with John Travolta

matically at the sale's end with the record amount ever earned by a costume: £120,301 for the "John Travolta dress", an ink-blue velvet gown by Victor Edelstein in which the Princess danced with the film star at the Reagan White House in 1985. The bidder was an aoonymous American. The lowest bid

was £13,143 for a Walker tunic dress. These are the holy relics of the great Cinderella story of our time," remarked Richard Martin, curator of the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum

Surgeons call for halving of specialist hospitals

Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

Surgeons' leaders called yesterday for a programme of hos-pital closures and reorganisation to concentrate surgical expertise and minimise risks to patients.

The Senate of Surgery of Great Britain and Ireland, which represents the Royal Colleges of Surgeons and their specialist associations, said the number of hospitals providing advanced surgery should be halved to ensure that patients had access to a full range of specialists and the highest standard of care.

The move comes a day after Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, announced that hospitals would have to close and health and local authorities would have to work together to provide care closer to people's homes.

There is a growing consensus among ministers, doctors and National Health Service managers that the NHS must adapt to survive, with specialist services concentrated in fewer hospitals while routine treatments are delivered by GP clinics and health centres. Yesterday, the Government in-vited applications for the first 20 pilot schemes for GP commis-sioning of local health services which are intended as an alternative to GP fundholding.

A report issued by the Seoate of Surgery says surgical units in acute hospitals should serve populations of 500,000 people, about twice the present average. This is the minimum size occessary to allow all surgical specialties to be provided and to make the best use of expensive technology.

"In large cities ... this service departments halved.

whilst in parts of the country with smaller or more diffuse populations, organisational rearrangements could be made between the existing hospitals,

the report says.
Charles Collins, consultant surgeon at Taunton and Somerset hospital and chief author of the report, said increasing specialisatioo io surgery and the expense of high-tech equipment meant small hospitals were no longer able to provide the same standard of care as larger

Mr Collins said: "The problem for the small hospital is that they won't have enough surgeons to offer all the specialist skills ... Where there are two hospitals a few miles apart serving populations of 250,000 each we would recommend concentrating all emergency and acute services on one site, where all the facilities are."

In some cities - such as London, where the Royal London hospital has takeo over the emergency work from St Bartholomew's and St Thomas's is to do the same for Guy's -change has already begun. Mr Collins added: "It might be ideal to halve the number of hospitals but we are alert to the political implications."

Earlier this month, the British Medical Association signalled for the first time that a limited programme of hospital closures could improve efficiency. A study commissioned by the BMA suggested that in a part of the country served by 10 NHS trusts all with accident and emergency departments, two might be closed and the number of A&E

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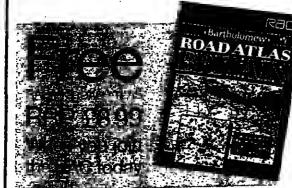
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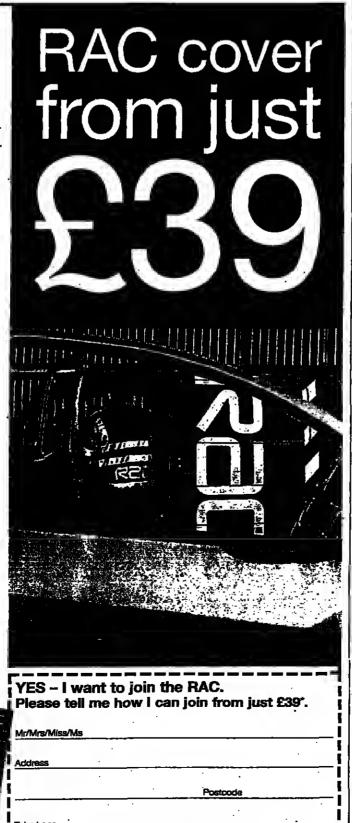
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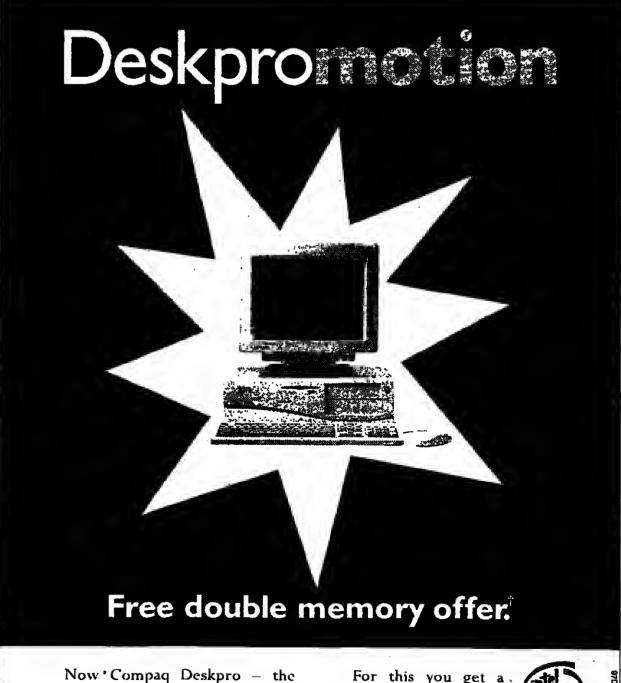
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Cameron Mackintosh Will be creating a new show

Millennium project benefits from the spin of experience

Christian Wolmar

Westminster Correspondent

The Millennium Exhibition yesterday got a new name, an increased hudget and its own public holiday on 31 December 1999. But uncertainty still surrounds several aspects of the project including whether the dome at Greenwich in

south-east London, will be permanent. The end of the year 1999 show has now been renamed the Millennium Experience to get away from the idea that it will be a horing business exhibition. Peter Mandelson, Minister Without Portfolio, who is now in charge of the project, also confirmed that the hudget of the project was now £750m, plus an extra £50m that may be called upon before it opens in December 1999.

Mr Mandelson also announced that newly appointed director of Scottish Mark McConnack, of IMG Associates, the sports sponsorship company, would be employed on a commission basis. In fact, this was reported by The Independent in February, which said that it was likely to cost £15m to raise the £150m that the project needs. No contract has

been signed with Mr McCormack. While the Cabinet approved the project at its meeting yesterday, it is still un-clear whether the five criteria which Tony Blair said would determine the future of the project have been met. The ootion of a national programme has been met with £76m of the Experience's budget being earmarked for projects outside London. On management, the Government announced that former Channel 4 boss Michael Grade; Ruth MacKenzie, the

Opera, and Sir Alan Cockshaw, chairman of Amec Construction, would be appointed to the board of the organisers. now called the New Millennium Expe-

rience Company. However, the promise of no money from the public purse has been fudged. Chris Smith, Secretary of State for National Heritage, confirmed that the project will be receiving £400m of lottery funding, plus an extra £50m if cash is needed before the opening. However, while ministers hope it will be within budget, there cannot be any guarantee that such a big project will not cost a lot more.

Ticket sales would hring in £135m from up to 12 million visitors, which Boh Ayling, the BA chief executive who is also chairman of the company organising it,

Bigger

and

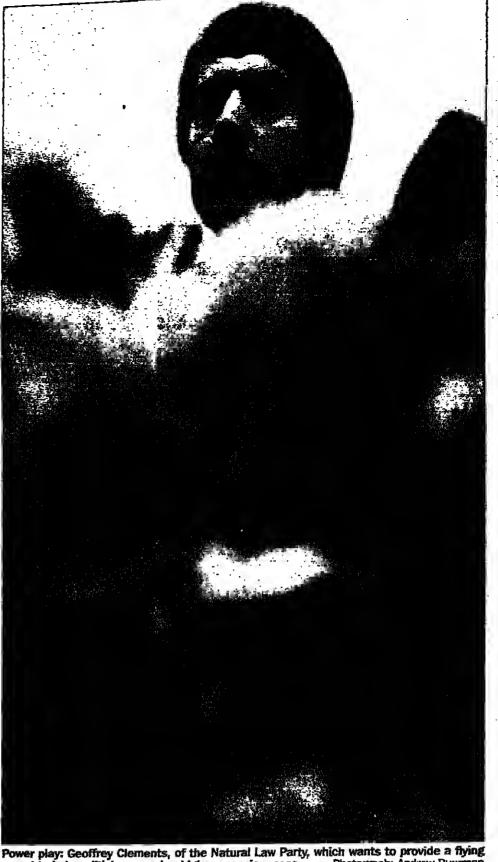
Better

than Ever!

compared with the Munich Beer festival, which attracts 6 million people in two weeks, and the Hanover trade exhibition which is expected to attract 40 million.

The decision on the future of the site is to be reviewed. The future of the dome is still uncertain. Mr Mandelson said that Greenwich would be home to a "new national digital network for education and learning which will promote the "university for industry", being set up for workers to study for degrees, and the "national grid for learning" which will hring the Intercet into schools.

Mr Mandelson confirmed that Sir Cameron Mackintosh, producer of Les Miserables, would be creating a show -"an arrow through time" - in the 10,000seater drum arena, and he said the Experience would be "unmissable".



Power play: Geoffrey Clements, of the Natural Law Party, which wants to provide a flying squad to help politicians reach a higher consciousness

Bertie Ahern elected as new Irish premier just as he was due to step into minister, he broke down old prejudices hefore divorce was be Mary Harney, leader of the Albert Reynolds' shoes after the

Dublin

Bertie Ahern was last night elected Taoiseach with a slim majority in the Dail backed by a centre-right coalition of his Fi-anna Fail party and its Progressive Democrat ally and three independents.

Mr Ahern achieved just enough support to avoid de- disappointment of 1994 when,

Fein's sole TD (MP), Caoimhghin O'Caolain, but the narrow majority guarantees a nervous term of office. He received 85 votes from the 166-seat chamber with 78 against. Outgoing premier John Bruton received 75 votes.

Mr Ahern's achievement is belated compensation for the

latter's coalition collapsed, a sudden U-turn by Labour partners

put him back in opposition. An affable consensus politician, Mr Ahern, 45, has played a key role in Ireland's economic boom, helping to corral trade unions into a decade of voluntary wage restraint. Pre-

viously labour and then finance

approved by publicly confirming his own marriage failure. On Northern Ireland, Mr

Ahern argued strongly up until last week's Lurgan murders for lines to be kept open to Sinn Fein, and, despite widespread pessimism in Dublin about IRA intentions, could be influential in pressing for a ceasefire.

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The new deputy-premier will small centre-right Progressive Democrats, while Raphael "Ray" Burke, 53, inherits Dick Spring's foreign affairs and Northern Ireland role. His selection above deputy FF leader Mary O'Rourke, reflects his closer ties to Mr Ahern, who will himself he directly involved in

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Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

William Hague needed this like he needed a hole in his transcendental.consciousness. Just as the Conservative Party leader was starting to work up some gravitas, it was revealed yesterday that up to 3,000 yogic flyers have formed an airborne back-up squad for him.

Something akin to formation flying takes place each month during special monthly "coherence days", and Mr Hague, who is a regular practitioner of transcendental meditation, is to be among their chief beneficiaries.

The Tory leader has already gained maturity, confidence, energy and a rare ability to survive on just a few hours sleep from his ability to tap into "the silent reservoir of creativity at the base of his thinking process", according to the Natural Law Party. With the help of his own

political flying squad he and his fellow politicians can now reach an even higher level of consciousness. Yogic fivers around the

country who get together on a regular basis to practise their art and to create a special energy are offering up their powers to Mr Hague for the good of the Tory party and for politics in general. Already they have cut crime and

Yogic flyers offer to take Hague on a higher plane

brought numerous other benefits to Britain, they say, but in future a new sense of harmony could pervade the land. The followers of the Ma-

harishi Mahesh Yogi have been in touch with Mr Hague since he invited them to speak at an Oxford Union debate during his spell as president. In fact, it seems that even the famous conference speech he delivered under the approving eye of Margaret Thatcher in 1977 may have been delivered while under the influence of "TML" The young Hague took up the pur-

suit at the tender age of 16. Dr Geoffrey Clements, leader of the Natural Law Party, is in no doubt about the cause of young William's success. "He has built up his personality on the basis of natural law. From the age of 16 he has given importance to

unfolding his inner potential. "We wish him all success in elevating the performance of

British politics and government to bring fulfilment to the nation and integration and peace in the world."

But although Mr Hague is clearly the Maharishi's man in British politics, natural law is a generous thing. Even Tony Blair's new Labour can benefit too, because its principles will lead to conflict-free politics for all.

The generosity of the NLP knows no bounds. For just a small fee, the Government could reap extra rewards from its special flying days. Our intention will be to build them up and to offer to the Government that they could sponsor that programme for the benefit of na-tional life." Dr Clements said. If Mr Hague fears all this

levity will detract from his image as a well-grounded politi-cian, he is hiding his worries well. He is apparently happy to talk about the joys of meditation endlessly, if prompted.

Scots Tories in row over £2m cash fund

Stephen Goodwin

The hitter faction fighting bedevilling the Scottish Tory party erupted again last night following a claim that the German Christian Democrats were funding a group of left-wing Tories planning a breakaway,

William Hague will today valk into this row and to try and persuade the disgruntled remnants of the Tory party in Scotland not to split from their English comrades, to continue the fight against devolution. King Canute may have set himself an easier task. Arthur Bell, chairman of the

Scottish Tory Reform Group, vehemently denied the suggestion of a £2m fund, invisting that the Konrad Adenaucr Foundation. an arm of the CDU, had merely provided money for a research visit to Germany. We are moving towards a fed-

eral system in Britain and we have to look at Conservatives elsewhere in Europe and see how they remain united while being more responsive to the public.

accused Mr Bell of "playing election result in Scotland. "The dangerous nationalist games and the right-wing Lloyd Beat demanded disciplinary action them anything? against his old adversary.

The row stoked the mood of recrimination among Scots Tories, with Mr Beat fingering Mr Bell for the rumours of gay liaisons which led to the resignation of Sir Michael Hirst on the eve of the election.

Mr Hague says his primary reason for attending the conference of Scottish Tories in Perth is "to listen". Michael Ancram, the party's devolution spokesman, says he will be listening too. But so far neither has given the slightest encouragement to those urging "reform or die on the stricken tartan Tories.

There was incredulity earlier this week when Mr Ancram repeated John Major's general election claim that devolution would lead to the break-up of the United Kingdom.

What on earth is he playing at?" was the stunned reaction of one senior Tory who wondered David McLetshie, president of if Mr Ancram, from his Devizes the voluntary wing of the party. seat, had actually noticed the

people have spoken. We have no MPs left here. Doesn't that tell

Mr Hague is expected to sound more emollient when he addresses the conference this evening - underlining his personal support for a "no" vote in September's referendum while leaving dissident members free to

argue a contrary case, as in 1979. The new leader will be applauded warmly, but would be unwise to lecture the battered band. Scottish Tories are worried enough about their image as a puppet of an unsympathetic English parish. As much time will be spent agonising over ties

with London as over devolution. Michael Rifkind, the former foreign secretary, has urged a thorough-going reform with separate funding and a distinct identity - possibly with a new name, the Scottish Unionist Association. Nor does He share Mr Ancram's vision of devotu-

tion spelling the end of the UK. Annabel Goldie, chairman of the Tories in Scotland, said "nothing is off limits" in the review of party structure.

المكذا من ألاصل



Clinton is sent warning over enlarged Nato

Mary Dejevsky Washington

THE INDEPENDENT

A 50-strong group of America's "great and good", including a arms control negociators and foreign affairs experts, issued an open letter to President Bill Clinton yesterday setting out strong objections to the enlargement of Nato and calling for the continuation of less formalised relations instead.

Signatories to yesterday's open letter come from both ends of the political spectrum. They include former US arms negotiators, Paul Warnke and Paul Nitze; Michael Mandelbaum, a former foreign affairs adviser to President Clinton; Jack Matlock, who was ambassador in Moscow during the collapse of communism and several other former ambassadors with experience of the region.

The letter was co-ordinated by Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of the former US president, Dwight Eisenhower, and a leading foreign affairs an-

alyst in her own right. The letter, published 10 days before the Nato summit meeting in Madrid, where the new members are expected to be approved, is the latest and strongest indication of a gathering head of steam in the United States against expansion of the alliance.

Not mincing its language, the letter describes Nato enlargement as a "policy error of historic proportions" that would "decrease allied security and unsettle European stability". The arguments relate to Russia, to the aspiring Nato members, to the alliance and to the US.

With Russia, it argues that expansioo will strengthen conservatives - who will see Russia's security threatened - and prevent ratification of outstanding arms control treaties, including Start II. In Europe, it says that enlargement - whether with Poland, Hungary and the Czech



co-ordinate the open letter

ity will not be easy to obtain.

have the emotional attachment

to Europe of their elders.

Republic, as the US Administration favours, or with the addition of Romania and Slovenia, as some European countries favour - will establish a new division in Europe between those who are in and those who are out.

Of the alliance, the letter argues that its military effectiveness will be diluted, and commit Nato to defending countries whose democracy and ethnic reladons are not yet settled. And as far as the US is concerned, the signatories argue that the European Nato members, old and new, will expect the US to pick up the bill, a bill which will he perhaps five times more than the \$25bn (£15bn) State Department estimate.

Unusually for an initiative that originates in the charmed circles of the Washingtoo élite, the arguments advanced in the letter reflect a large and growing segment of American opin-ioo outside Washingtoo, Less sophisticated as the arguments of Washington-insiders, the view from the "heartland" concentrates on the likely cost to Amerlcan taxpayers of equipping central European countries for Nato membership and the basic principle of whether American soldiers should be expected, as it is said, "to die for Danzig".

Business concerns, on the other hand, stand by the administration's support for ex-pansioo, partly because of the



Defensive position: Nato's retiring Allied Supreme Commander of Europe, General George Joulwan (left), waving goodbye to the Secretary-General Dr Javier Solana, of Spain, after receiving a Nato medal at a farewell ceremony at the defence alliance's headquarters yesterday

Internet ban outlawed by top US court

Key decisions also given on mercy killings and president's powers

Mary Dejevsky

The US Supreme Court handed down three decisions yesterday, each of which will have a direct impact on aspects of life in America, and could in two of the cases set precedents for how other countries tackle similar

It ruled against censorship of the Internet and for the right of individual states to ban doctoradministered euthanasia ("as-sisted suicide"). It also enhanced the power of the president by giving him the long-sought right to veto sections of Bills he dislikes rather than the whole Bill.

The least conditional of the rulings was that Congress had acted unconstitutionally when it legislated last year to censor the Internet. The decision, the first sortie by the top judicial authority into cyberspace, said that in trying to protect children, Congress had violated the con-stitutional right of adults to free speech, and it struck out that section of the legislation on "de-

cency" in communications. On assisted suicide, the court upheld laws in New York and Washington state that make it a crime for a doctor to end the life of a terminally ill patient, even if the patient is judged mentally capable of making the decision. It ruled that assisted suicide was different from allowing a patient to refuse treatment for a terminal illness, a right recognised as constitu-tional in 1990. The "right to as-

JOH NOW FROM

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sistance in committing suicide," it ruled, "is not a fundamental liberty interest". Ohservers said the ruling

was unlikely to be the last word. as it left states free to pass their own legislation. Oregon has already passed such a decision by referendum, but that is facing its own legal challenge. Constitutionally, the most important judgment is the new

right granted the president, be-cause it alters the balance of power between the president (the executive) and Congress (the legislature). Uotil oow, the president has had to decide whether the mer-its of the Bill before him out-

weigh what he does not like or

The veto was all or nothing; it could not be discriminatory. Supporters of what has become known as the "line-item veto" argued that it would considerably speed up legislation because it effectively limits the ability of Congress to make one item in a Bill conditional on

The most recent example of such congressional "blackmail" was two weeks ago, when the Republican majority tried to link federal assistance for flood victims to a project of its own. The result was that President Bill Clinton vetoed a Bill that he otherwise supported whole-

Eventually, a combination of furious public opinion and divisions among Republicans led to the removal of the offending section; and Mr Clinton signed the measure.

It will in future be much more

difficult for Congress to employ such tactics and means a president like Mr Clinton, whose own party does not control the House of Representatives or the Senate, will be much less hamstrung in what he can do.

The court did, however, hold open the right of elected representatives to challenge the ruling if they felt their rights had been adversely affected by a specific presidential decision.



pries in row n cash fund

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Maastricht hurdle: France's new regime and Germany's old stagers struggle to get fit for monetary union

Jospin bets on growth to save his poll pledges

John Lichfield

It is a ritual dance. The French government proposes a radical change in the country's public welfare system. Pressure groups of both Right and Left call their supporters onto the streets. The government backs down or, at least, offers a compromise.

Much of the previous government's time and credibility were expended in this way. In the case of the new Socialist-led government, the process has been squeezed into one week. In his general statement of policy last Thursday, the Prime

Minister, Lionel Jospin, made one unexpectedly bold, moneysaving proposal. He suggested that child allowances should be paid in future only to families with a monthly income of less than Fr25,000 a month (£2,600, or £31,200 a year). In other words. Mr Jospin was suggesting a means test, a principle and left-wing Socialist politi-



Numbers game: Phillipe Ernst of Hatten, near Strasbourg, posts a sign in his shop to show that one of his customers bought a lottery ticket there which netted Fr70m (£6.5m). Some say Lionel Jospin needs a similar stroke of luck to meet the criteria for Ernu Photograph – Reuters

which the French welfare system has always strenuously refused. Alarm hells rang. Socially right-wing family associations said the scrapping of middle-class child allowances struck at the heart of family values and would send France's (healthy) birth rate into rapid decline.

The unions, and Communist

cians, suspected they saw the beginning of means-testing throughout the entire welfare system, something far more radical than the previous right-wing government had dared to propose. They fear Mr Jospin may apply the same approach to the chronically overspent public health system, reducing public coverage for wealthier people and welfare policy.

and forcing them to bridge the gap with private health insurance. The government is under pressure to meet the budgetary guidelines for membership of European monetary union and fund its reflationary campaign promises. There is some evidence that it is thinking of wider means-testing in health

Or was thinking. The vehemence of the response to the abolition of middle class family allowances bas sent the gov-ernment into a confused retreat. Within one day of Mr Jospin's statement, his deputy, the em-ployment minister, Martine Aubry, said the Fr25,000 threshold was up for oegotiation. Not good enough, said the pro-

big tax bonanza falls flat

Fifteen years after coming to power on a tax-cutting ticket, Chancelor Helmut Kohl finally saw off his "Great Reform Bill" yesterday, though his life's work was denounced as a messy compromise with little benefit to anyonc.

In the twilight zone of govcrament finances, rendered opaque by tricks to conjure up a healthier-than-life budget. experts could agree oo only one thing: the modest tax hand-outs would make it impossible for Germany to meet the Maas-

tricht criteria in coming years. The package, passed in its final reading yesterday by the Bundestag, promises to cut the "solidarity tax" earmarked for east Germany next year and reduce income tax and corpora-tion tax by DM30bo in 1999. Thus will Mr Kohl go to the voters next year, trumpeting a give-away that should bring the basic rate of income tax down to 15 per cent from the current 22.9 per cent and reduce the top rate by 14 points to 39 per cent.

The gains are already less. however, than the government intended, and fail to take account of money the state will take away with the other hand. The immediate problem Ger-

bership this year. The Jospin government has let it be known it hopes to reduce

hits the 3 per cent figure.

family groups. Demonstrations were called on Tuesday, in-cluding one outside the Na-

tional Assembly. On Wednesday, the official government spokesperson, the culture minister Catherine Trautmann, said there was no question of adopting means testing throughout the health and welfare system. Various other government figures suggested ways in which the reform of family allowances might be watered down. All the compromises were rejected by the conservative, pro-family cam-

paigners.
The revolt is the first domestic test of the nerve of the Jospin government, which insists that, unlike its predecessors, it will act as it speaks and deliver its promises. Delaying or watering down the family allowance cuts - which could save up to £1ho in a full year will make it even harder to meet

the budget deficit to 3.4 per cent of GDP in 1997, well over the Maastricht treaty target of 3 per coot. But it hopes to make this politically acceptable to its EU partners, especially Germany, and economically acceptable to the markets, by proposing a 1998 budget later this year which

All estimates, both official and unofficial, suggest that next year's deficit will be well over 4 per ceot, even before Mr Jospin starts to spend money on his campaign promises. How do the figures add up? At present, they doo't. Mr Jospin is playing for time and praying for steeper growth in the French economy.

many faces is that its hudget is heading way beyond the Maas-tricht limits this year, is set to halloon next year and will be in the stratosphere in 1999, the annus mirabilis, or otherwise, of monetary union.

The original plans, articulated yesterday by the Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, as "making Germany fit for the 21st century", have had to be watered down. Incentives for business to keep jobs at home have been largely scrapped. while corporation tax burdens that would have gone in tandem with the breaks in 1999 are to be brought in next year, to fill Mr Waigel's holes.

"A scandal," was how Hans-Olaf Henkel, head of the Confederation of German Industry, described the package. Business leaders were outraged by plans to slash the limit on tax writeoffs allowed against losses.

But the government was forced to delve into the pockets of its friends because it found itself short of billions of Deutschmark. This year it oeeds to pluck out of thin air DM18bn i£6.6bn) to get within shot of the budget deficit figures prescribed by Maastricht. Next year, Mr Kohl's new finance minister, for few expect Mr Waigel to keep his job. must find an extra DM35bn.

Much of this will come from selling the family silver. Mr Waigel is proposing an uoderthe-couoter sale of shares in the telephone monopoly. Deutsche Telekom, netting DM25bn, and a clear-out of state-owned property. Technically, such proceeds canoot be counted towards qualification for Emu, but Germany hopes its partners will be less pedantic in this case than has been with them

The opposition Social Democrats are taking the government to court for failing to produce an honest budget, and yesterday said they would block the "Great Tax Reform" in the

upper house, the Bundesrat. Mr Kohl's re-election ticket will then be referred to endless committees and be trimmed further, beyond recognition, which leaves him with not much to crow about in oext year's gen-

 \Box



on MP Susanne Kastner's Theo Waigel T-shirt reads: 'Can you spare a Mark?'

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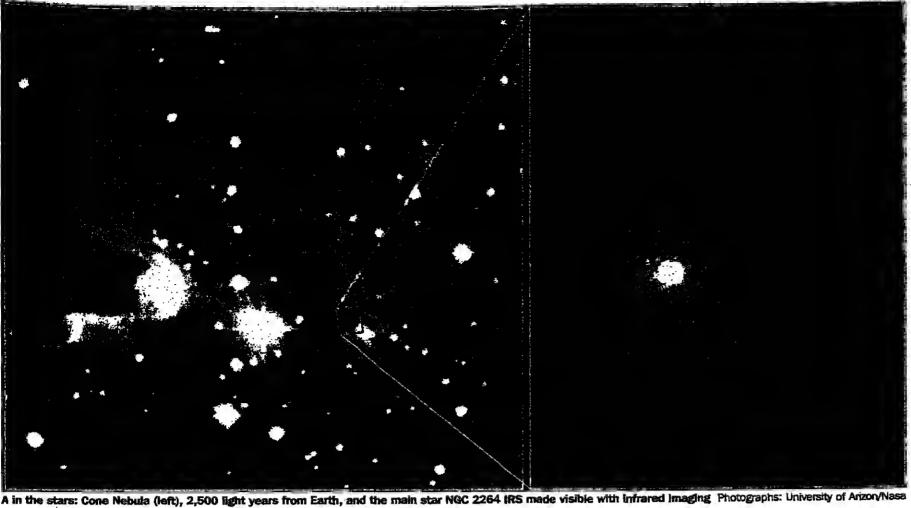
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Six new stars are born amid gas and dust

Science Editor

The right-hand frame here... contains not one star, but seven though the dimmer six are all the offspring of the larger, central one. New pictures from the Hubble space telescope, using its infrared camera, have provided scientists with direct evidence that huge stars can throw off enough dust and gas to create "baby" stars, visible here as the six fainter

dots in the picture. The right-hand frame is an enlargement of a tiny area of the left, which lies in the Cone Nebula, 2,500 light years away from Earth in the constellation Monoceros.

The main star itself is called NGC 2264 IRS, though it cannot be seen in the left-hand picture because of obscuring dust in its path. But with infrared imaging,

Scientists call the starbirth visible here "triggered" star formation, and happens when a gale of high-speed particles from a young, massive star compresses nearby dust and gas until it becomes dense enough to trigger the formation of a star, or stars. Usually stars form by the gradual collection of dust and gas due to gravity, until the combined mass sparks fusion in its core. Normally, individual stars would be many light years away: the nearest to Earth is almost five light years distant. However, these "offspring" stars are just 0.04 to 0.08 light years from the central mother. The pictures were analysed by astronomers at the

University of Arizona and Nasa. The rings around the star are not part of the image, but caused by diffraction effects from the point-like sources of light.

Vaccines tested on Australian orphans



himen pigs: Hundreds of orphans in the State of Victoria were used in medical trials Photograph: Reuters

outcry erupted in Australia terday over revelations that in the E of orphan babies and children were used as inea pigs in experiments on ccines for herpes, whooping ugh, influenza and other disfor 25 years after the Sec-World War.

Former wards of state deanded a judicial inquiry after was disclosed that some of the sts did not work, failed to pass afety tests in animals and aused vomiting, abscesses and ther side-effects in babies. The revelations came in a re-

ort in the Age newspaper of Aelbourne, which outlined sevn separate cases of such experiments taking place in ephanages in Victoria state be-ween 1945 and 1970. The exeriments were conducted nder the auspices of the Waler and Eliza Hall Institute of fedical Research, one of Ausalia's most prestigious reearch institutions, and the commonwealth Serum Laboatories, then a federal govrnment body.

They took place without the onsent of any of the children's arents at a time when orphanges were crowded with state rards under an official policy nat children from poor families nd single parents should be laced under the care of the rate. Such policies continued un-1 the 1970s.

Michael Wooldridge, the fed-ral minister for health, said last ight that the experiments hould never have happened. It said they were conducted acording to the medical ethics of he day and should not be idged by today's standards. We will do everything we can

to put people's minds at rest."
According to the Age, researchers from the Walter and Eliza Hall institute began work to develop a vaccine against herpes simplex by conducting ex-periments on babies in 1947 at Broadmeadows Babies Home, an institution run by the Roman Catholic Sisters of St Joseph. They chose the state wards because the infectious virus thrived in cramped living conditions and was believed to be "predominantly a disease of the poorer classes". The experiments failed. Some of the vac-

cinated babies caught herpes. In another experiment, researchers from the Commonwealth Serum Laboratory tested combined antigens for whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus on wards aged between three months and almost three years, from three Melbourne babies' homes. A separate experiment by the

same institution, involving 350 babies, was conducted over three years up to 1970. In this trial, to reduce the side-effects of influenza vaccines in infants, the babies were given full adult doses of the test vaccine.

David Vaux, the Walter and Eliza Hall institute's spokesman said yesterday that medical ethics committees with strict rules for informed consent on such trials had not been "invented at the time.

"There were epidemics at the time of infectious diseases killing large numbers of children, especially at these institutions where conditions were very crowded. The sisters-incharge were desperate to try to prevent their children from dy-Why the experiments on a non-life threatening condition such as herpes? "The authori ties were interested in pre venting children from suffering from herpes," Dr Vaux said.

Former wards who believe they might have been used as guinea pigs are demanding access to their medical records. Heather Bell, a Melbourne woman used in one trial as a baby, and now a spokesperson for a group representing former wards of state, said yesterday: "We want a government inquiry. The government were totally responsible for these children and they used them as guinea pigs. Would you use your chil-dren for medical experiments?

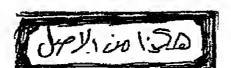


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Secret war still claims lives in Laos



Matthew Chance Huap Huan Province, Laos

Numbed to the danger around him, a Lao father slowly tills his field as an explosion shakes the ground. Across the hill, a villager planting maize has struck an American cluster bomb buried in the soil. It fragments into a cloud of shrapnel, killing her instantly and leaving one more crater on a landscape al-

ready scarred with thousands. After 25 years of peace in Laos, a country littered with millions of unexploded bombs, the legacy of a "secret war" with the United States in the 1960s and '70s keeps on killing.

"This is the most heavily bombed place on earth," said Seb Taylor of the Cumbriabased Mines Advisory Group (MAG). He and a team of British forces veterans are in Laos destroying the mass of un-exploded ordnance rained on Communist Pathet Lao revolutionaries allied to Ho Chi Minh's Vietnamese.

"The usual comparison is that more bombs were dropped

Twenty-five years after US raids stopped, unexploded bombs continue to kill and maim

World War. But it's difficult to convey the real extent of the bombing, the irrationality of the war America waged against these people," he says.

Although the Americans have still to acknowledge it, the decade before the fall of Saigon in 1975 saw Laos pounded with napalm and heavy ordnance in nimaginable quantities. An estimated two tons of high explosives were dropped on the country for every man, woman and child living there at the time.

Between raids, which saw B52 bombing sorties every eight minutes for nearly 10 years, a clandestine "secret army" of US servicemen, aided by minority ethnic Hmong tribesmen, attempted unsuccessfully to sever supply routes between Vietnam and Laos, which

here than in all theatres Washington viewed as the throughout the entire Second crucial "domino" buffer state against a communist sweep across South-East Asia.

Two thirds of the US bombs fell in the remote north-eastern Huap Han Province, once the strategic heartland of the Pathet Lao. Today, the area remains one of the world's most hazardous places, bombs continue to kill one person every other day, according to aid workers.

Our main problem is clear-ing the 200 million or so tennis ball sized bomblets dropped in cluster pods across the region. says Donald Macdonald, an ordnance specialist with MAG. These anti-personnel devices are little more than mines by another name, except they were de-

signed to kill not injure," he says. The killer bomblets, which remain outside the British landmine ban and the international debate on the use of such devices, were dropped indiscriminately, littering temples, paddy fields and houses.

An estimated 30 per cent of the devices failed to explode on impact. The slightest touch can be enough for detonation, rendering everyday chores, a quarter of a century on, high risk activities.

Kham Ra, a young mother. recounted the day, less than a year ago, when a bomb killed her husband. "The whole village heard the blast. We ran to the rice paddy to see, but he was already dead. There was nothing any of us could do except carry on," she said. Tragedy is commonplace in

beleaguered Laos. More than .11,000 people have been killed by bombs in the years since the Americans stopped their raids. Bomb saturated land, dangerous and polluting, has devastated the Lao economy. Unlike its Asian Tiger neighbours, Laos - which is to join the powerful regional econom-

ic bloc. Ascan, in July - remains

firmly amongst the world's poorest nations. "We are true victims of conflict. says Somphanh Pheng-khammy. Huap Han's provincial s governor. "Our land is dangerous to farm and unproductive. The people need to subsidise their rice crop so they sell scrap metal for cash," he says, explaining why such a high proportion of deaths in Lacs are incurred by people tampering

with unexploded bombs.

A British run community awareness programme has run into difficulties over this issue, according to Seb Taylor.

One of the stiffest obstacles is local myth, which tends to run against the technical reality of explosives," he says, "such as the commonly beld belief that bombs become safer when they are severely corroded. In fact the opposite is true."

It is easy to see how bombs have become mundane for so many here: they are part of the landscape. In a field marked as a bomb site with a skull, a bamboo house perches on 5ft-tall stilts made of bomb casing. Outside, a 2-year-old girl washes berself in a bath made from a cluster bomb pod.

Mr Phengkhammy is philo-sophical: "It's like the way you in the West grow up accepting motor accidents as a fact of life," he says. "We grow up with bombs. We know they kill but we have learnt to live with them.



significant shorts

'Murder machine' admits Tokyo gas attack

The man once nicknamed the "murder machine" of releasing nerve gas on Tokyo subways in 1995 and assisting in another attack. Prosecutors say Yasuo Hayashi alone was responsible for eight of the 12 deaths in the Tokyo attack and for half the 5,000 injuries. The last of five cultists accused in the attack to be arrested, he was beld in December after two years at large. AP - Tokyo

Italian tanks deploy in Vlora

Italian tanks took up position in the Albanian port of Vlora in a show of strength against gunmen who have staged battles for three days. Supporters of rival warlords fought during a rally of rightist parties taking part in Sunday's election, pitting President Sali Berisha's Democratic Party against the Socialists. One person died and two were injured in the violence: Reuters - Viora

Berlin Jews' new leader

Andreas Nachama, 45, a historian who runs the "Topography of Terror" exhibit built over the remains of the Gestapo's Berlin dungeons, is to head Germany's largest Jewish community, becoming the first chairman of the Berlin Jewish community board not to have lived through the Holocaust.

Land burial for Cousteau

Jacques-Yves Cousteau, who revealed to the world the mysteries of the oceans' depths, will be laid to rest on land rather than buried at sea in the navy tradition. He will be buried in his native Bordeaux. Reuters - Paris

Escort service nipped in bud

A Dutch 17-year-old who ran an escort service from class has been expelled, more for using a mobile phone than for selling sex. The phone would ring in class and he would answer "Escort Service 501". A school official said: "The problem would be the same if he was selling vegetables."

AP - Enschede

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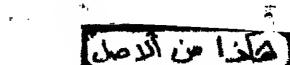




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n Laos.

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kyo gas attack

British beef back on the menu at McDonald's.

Andrew Taylor, Managing Director of McDonald's Restaurants Ltd, today announced the welcome return of British beef to McDonald's UK restaurants. In a statement, Mr Taylor confirmed:

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Results of consumer opinion research conducted this month show that the overwhelming majority of consumers now wish us to sell British beef. In response to this, we are pleased to be able to sell British beef once again.

McDonald's in the UK will continue to buy some beef from long established suppliers in other European countries.

Our customers can be assured that we are doing so in the knowledge that the same strict quality and safety standards are met by all our beef suppliers, whether in the UK or other European countries.

We will begin buying British beef immediately, with new supplies being introduced to our restaurants over the next few weeks."

We assure you that we will continue to listen and respond to your concerns. And we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your valued support over the last few months.

Andrew Tonylow

For further information contact McDonald's UK Customer Services Department 0990 244 62



Confusion and chaos among the colonels of Sierra Leone's Michael Ashworth Johnny Paul Koromah's military junta in Sierra Leone, the driver loses control and ploughs into a concrete pillar which disintegrates the main drive while a new but



At the military headquarters of

battered Mercedes, full of soldiers with rocket-propelled grenades and AK47s sticking out of the window, screeches around kicks the car and the passengers jump out and kick the driver. The grounds of the base are like a human chicken-coop. Groups of soldiers and members of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) militia wander around

The army launched a coup

last month in overthrow the government, and then joined up with the RUF, once its bitter enemy. The result, so far, is not very tidy.

Inside the building the chaos is just as ubiquitous as outside. At the entrance to the office of the Director of Defence Infor-

reads: "Save the Planet".

mation, a man with a machinegun wearing a cowboy bat and a pair of sunglasses stands guard. Beneath the bandoleer of linked ammunition around his neck, the logo of his T-shirt Inside the office Lieutenant

Eldred Collins - the spokesman for the rebel movement, invited by the army to join the new regime - is attempting to justify the recent coup. "We are a people's government. We are a government for the people by the people. We have peace in Sierra Leone because J P Koroman brought the RUF from the bush. It must have been divine intervention, what else could it have been?"

Colonel Cessay, the Director of Defence Information who now shares his office with Lt Collins, leans back on his chair and stares at the ceiling. He will not say it out loud but it is written all over his face: he thinks his RUF counterpart is an idiot. The colonel politely excuses himself saying he has to report to his superior, a major.

The rank structure in the new People's Army is complicated. Colonels like Cessay have to answer to junior officers; and "Honourable" Sergeants (those on the Army Council) are higher up the ladder than some of-ficers. Where the RUF commanders fit into the rank structure is anybody's guess, given that the vice-chairman of the Ruling Council and leader of the RUF is a corporal.

Apart from harassment on the streets, the flurry of chaos in the barracks has little impact on the outside. This is partly because the country has all but cause the phones in the barracks don't work.

The inhabitants of Freetown have few illusions about their situation. "What do you expect? When they looted my house they ran off with my computer thinking it was a television set, and these are the same people who are trying to run a country," says Sule Hassan, a local businessman whose house and factory were destroyed by looters.

Despite intimidation, Freetown newspapers continue to attack the junta for incompetence and illegality. "The AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council must resign, they have left our natiun stranded internationally and our people looted and displaced," states the editorial of the Freetown newspaper, the Standard Times. The greatest influence the military has had so far is the constant reruns of kung fu and Rambo films on Sierra Leonian television.

street demonstrations, Sierra Leonians are expressing their disgust for the present regime by staying away from work or fleeing the city. The secretary general of the Labour Congress, Gandeb Yillah, continues to defy government demands for a return to work stating: "We will only return to work when we have democratically elected government in Sierra Leone." For many, a return to work is impossible as businesses have closed down and factories bave

reatest influence so

been destroyed. The atmosphere in Freetown is subdued. Sierra Leonians want to see the back of the present regime, but they are fearful of the possibility of a Nigerian-led invasion by the Ecomog regional military force.

"We don't want this regime but we don't want the Nigerians to intervene. They will cause damage and make the problem worse," says Samuel Foday, an economics student at Freetown University.

At present, Nigerian troops are camped out across the peninsula at the international airport at Lungi and their gunships straddle the harbour. They have so far failed to inspire



Koromah: Running a country that has ground to a halt

the inhabitants of Freetown that they bave the competence and discipline to mount a suc-

cessful military operation. In their initial abortive attempt to oust the junta on 2 June - one week after the coup - chaotic logistics and poor planning led to Nigerian artillery batteries sbelling their own troops and the soldiers running out of ammunition. Those who were not killed or captured beat a hasty retreat to their base

at Lungi. Many Sierra Leonians are only too well aware of the Nigerian reputation in Liberia, where the Ecomog peace-keeping force participated in the looting and destruction of Monrovia and carned the nickname "Every Car Or Moving Object Gone". The last thing the inhabitants of Freetown want is another excuse Although there are no overt for a looting spree.

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Labour faces a tough exam in economics

three Rs. Whole-class teaching. Put your calculators away, you at the back. After three years in rehearsal, David Blunkett is now fluent in the language of educational traditionalism.

And the Government's first two

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months have seen an impressive rhetorical display. Within days of winning the election, Mr Blunkett had "named and shamed" 18 failing schools and sent in hit squads (quickly renamed "help squads" for the squeamish end of the market). He ordered junk food off school menus, announced a "blitz on truants", questioned whether under-eights should have calculators, and announced a crackdown on "trendy" teacher-training colleges.

But what of the substance? Yesterday. the Government announced some of the details of its teacher-training reforms. For a fuller judgement of the transition from saying to doing, we must wait for next month's White Paper on education stan-dards. Meanwhile, it is obvious that the most important factor in determining standards is the quality of individual teachers, so the teacher-training reforms allow us to make an interim assessment.

Since he became Secretary of State for Education and Employment (in other words, Nearly Everything That Triny Blair Thinks Is Really Important), Mr Blunkett bas acted quickly on the pledges in Labour's manifesto. In come smaller classes; out go vouchers and the assisted places scheme. The priority for education is not just page 1, line 1 of Mr Blair's "contract with the people", it also rep-

resents a substantial section of the manifesto, full of specific policies, contrary to the widespread perception that this was a hland and waffly document. But, as we have seen since the election, Labour's policies fall into two hroad groups: exhortation and action. Of course, exhortation and rhetoric can be valuable, but action is better. This dichotomy is particularly marked in the field of teacher quality.

It is not enough for Mr Blunkett and Estelle Morris, his deceptively quiet-spoken junior minister, simply to urge teacher training colleges to return to traditional methods, or "tried and tested methods of teaching" as yesterday's announcement put it. There are specific and practical things which produce results, and it is not enough to repeat the mantra about the spread of best practice". Best practice has to be codified and mechanisms put in place to ensure that all schools do it.

This is not a matter of one simple, overarching seaching "method". The hest teachers use a mix of whole-class (or "whole-class interactive" in Labour's jargon), group and individual teaching. All good teaching is "child-centred" in the sense that children have no chance of expressing their individuality if they are not literate and numerate, Yesterday, the Government moved sharply in the right direction, with a "vanguard" of 12 seacher training colleges adopting the new programme from this September, and the threat of withdrawal of funds hanging over colleges which do not like it.

That is the supply side of the mecha-



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON EM 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-203 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 3405 / 0171-345 2435

nism for improving what actually happens in classrooms, but the demand side matters, too - not least because rewriting the curriculum for teacher training colleges will do nothing about existing teachers, too many of whom are simply not up to scratch. Headteachers and deputy heads have to demand best practice from their staff. They should have more power to hire and (especially) to fire, and Mr Blunkett is doing something about that.

But they also need to reward good teaching. The pay of heads and deputies should reflect performance, which is why the outery over the idea of £70,000 salaries for headteachers is misplaced. There should be more £70,000 heads, and

ISOLATED, DAMAGED, UNSTABLE, DANGEROUS

more primary heads paid more where they are good enough to merit the money. The whole system has to shift towards rewarding merit rather than length of service or "additional responsibilities".

One of the most worrying news items this week was the sharp fall in the number of applications for teacher training. But given that there is no question of raising significantly the pay of the teaching profession as a whole, the only way to attract enough good candidates is to persuade them that high ability will be recognised by high pay. It is an uncomfortable truth that pay differentials are probably too compressed, especially in primary schools.

This does bring us to the question of public spending. Labour's pledge is to "increase the share of national income spent on education as we decrease it on the bills of economic and social failure". Easier said than done. Given that education is an urgent priority now but that the benefits take a long time to come through, the logic of the Government's stance points in the opposite direction, towards cash up front for payback later.

We return - while acknowledging that

it is too late to influence the content of oext week's Budget - to our concern about Labour's public spending priori-ties. The centrepiece of Gordon Brown's big show on Wednesday will be his "welfare to work" plan, a commitment set in concrete two years ago and now looking as if it is holding up the wrong part of the edifice. We pointed out during the election campaign that there were already too few young people unemployed for more than six months to make sense of the pledge to take 250,000 of them off benefits and into work. The Chancellor's response has been to loosen the criteria. to include young people who have been out of work for shorter periods, making this one of the new Government's easier promises to keep. It would be much better to use the chance to transfer some of the money further down the food chain. For a government that is serious about causes, it makes more sense to spend the proceeds of the windfall tax on the next cohort of young people - those 14- to 19-year-olds who are still at school or college who might benefit from

improved vocational education. In terms of employability, the taxpayer gets a bigger bang per buck spent on education and training in the 14-19 age group than on remedial schemes for 18-25s.

The Government has made an impresive start on its education priorities. But the urgent need is for the many bright ideas for practical improvements to be pushed through by motivated leadership at all levels. Persuasion will not be enough; goads must be used. The targets for literacy and numeracy set for 2002 are specific and demanding, but it is not an exaggeration to say that the Government's credibility rests on their fulfilment. Time to do, as someone once

It's a genuine database, honest

s ever. a national database is the Aanswer to the problem. Which problem? This time, it is fakes. Trading standards officers bave fallen victim to the same impulse that has prompted the pur-chase of millions of PCs. If you put all your information into a computer, your life will magically become organised. So tbe next time you buy a £5 Rolex, or a £2 Givenchy, you will know it is genuine. Meanwhile, let's hope the dress (allegedly once worn by a princess) that went for £120,000 is the real thing.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Labour policy reform stifles grassroots

Sir: Your report ("Defiant activists to fight Blair on reforms", 23 June) of widespread opposition to the conduct of the "Labour into Power" exercise is timely and generally accurate.

However, the document circulated in February was for discussion only. Detailed proposals will oot be published until the autumn, shortly before Annual Conference, and oo one knows what they will be. Those likely to be most affected, constituencies and virtually no opportunity to discuss or amend them before final decisions are made. More time is vital if the process is to have credibility in the wider party.

The process is not criticised primarily on the grounds that it will take power from the grassroots". Past debates on unilateralism showed that whatever Conference says, ultimately the party leadership decides policy.

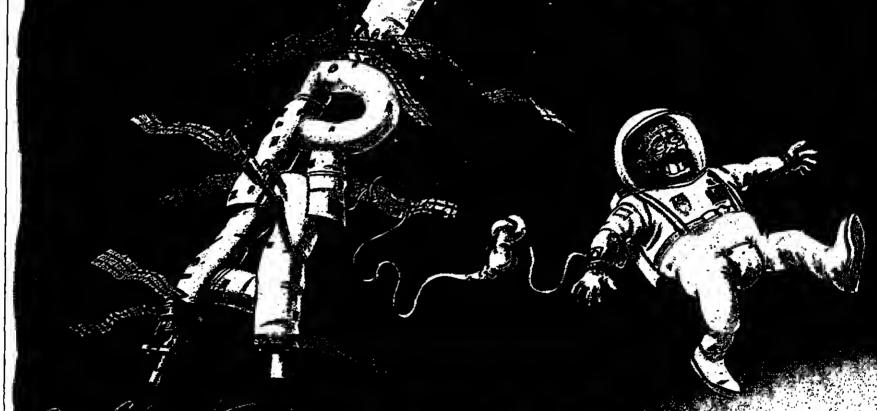
The anxiety is that if constituencies and affiliates are unable to submit resolutions, the grassroots will be unable to initiate debate or even to express an opinion. Far from "neutralising internal strife" this may exacerbate it by removing any forum for the orderly discussion of legitimate concerns. Further, it will make Labour the only major party whose Conference does not debate constituency party resolutions, making the Conservatives look democratic in comparison. SIMON McKEOWN ANN BLACK TIM PENDRY Steering Committee Labour Reform Birmineham

Sir. The Labour Party old left should be apologising for their mistakes of the past, not trying to repeat them. Ken Livingstone's opposition to the Labour into Power conference document and coverage of Alan Simpson's Red Pepper attack and Llew Smith's opposition to devolution (reports, June 25) are a real diversion from pressing on with the modernisation of the party.

The people of this country demonstrated last month that they want a party committed to democracy, equality and enterprise to take them into the next century, oot some 19th-century socialist party. New Labour can become a real left-wing party of government by breaking with its bureaucratic past (like union bloc votes) and continue to include the voices of contemporary Britain.

If the old left cannot adjust to the new reality, then by all means let them live in the fantasies of Red Pepper and debate with Artbur Scargill. The rest of us want the Labour Party to get on with the real business of delivering jobs. rebuilding education and bealth and creating a democratic society. JOHN STRAWSON London N19.

ORDER SUNDAY SPORTING LIFE Sir: Perish the thought that Donald Macimyre should ever be disciplined for being off message in The Independent, There wouldn't be much point in reading him and buying The Independent if be and it read like Pravda. So why does he take such an uncompromising view of Labour MP Alan Simpson ("Spare the rod and spoil the potes - the whip's dilemma", 25 July 2, les Wecretary of State intelligent, independent my Member of Parliament



happens to be a member of Tribune's editorial board? Alan Simpson is criticised for

speaking out against the Party into Power proposals that would centralise decision-making in the Labour Party and turn the annual conference into a dreary version of the stage-managed event that passes for the annual Conservative Party conference.

If may have escaped Mr Macintyre's attention that Party into Power is a consultative document, which has been debated at constituency Labour parties and trade unions up and down the country. Many take a similar view to Alan Simpson, as they are fully entitled to do. MARK SEDDON Editor Tribune London WC1

Cook denies Hong Kong 'snub'

Sir: Steve Crawshaw's report from Hong Kong ("Democrats' leader left out in the cold", 26 June) is a lurid distortion of the truth. The Prime Minister and I each had loog meetings with Martin Lee

in London only three weeks ago. I have agreed that the only Hong Kong elected politicians invited to dinner on Britannia this Saturday will be Martin Lee and two other prominent Hong Kong democrats.
I look forward to talking to him again then.

To describe this as a snub is to stand normal usage on its head. ROBIN COOK MP and-Reign and Commonwealth Office

Sir. On 17 June, the Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, remarked that Hong Kong would be the first example of a colony becoming less democratic after the

end of colonial rule than before. I'm sure that there are several examples to prove him wrong but one that springs to mind is the former Dutch possession of West

New Guinea. In February 1961, the people elected a National Council which then voted to rename the territory West Papua. They also chose a flag and national anthem in the full bope that the Dutch would bonour their pledge to allow the people the right to self-determination.

A little over a year later that

promise was broken and the erritory and its people were banded over to the Indonesian dictatorship of Sukarno. Indonesia's first act was to round up a crowd of 10,000 Papuans to vatch a bonfire of West Papuao flags and other items relating to their national identity, then the elected West New Guinea Council was disbanded and replaced by an Indonesian appointed regional assembly with none of the original council members included in it. Any other political activity such as rallies, meetings or the distribution of political material

was banned. Thirty years later the West Papuans are still being denied their democratic rights.

I sincerely bone that Hong Kong fares better. JOHN SALTFORD Manchester

Secrets of the Greenwich dome

Sir: Louis Hellman (Letters, 26 June) has difficulty identifying the "symbolic significance" of Richard Rogers' breathraking Millennium Dome.

The answer is that this project is the most dramatic - and I suspect also the biggest - manifestation of a range of exciting developments in materials technology and structural engineering, many of which have been pioneered in Britain, These developments combining hi-tech fabrics and tensioned constructional forms make possible the creation of large, light, flexible structures that are dramatic io appearance; contain huge, uncluttered spaces; can be built relatively quickly; and may be altered if tastes or

require meots change over time.

Other notable examples include buildings by Michael Hopkins such as bis wooderful Mouod Stand at Lord's cricket ground, the Schlumberger Research Laboratory near Cambridge, the new Inland Revenue building in Nottingham and the Glyndebourne Opera House. The dome of St Paul's

Cathedral and the Dome of Discovery at the Festival of Britain were both important innovations of their own time which exploited the techniques and materials then available to architects. The former took 35 years to huild: the latter, for the record, is said to have leaked.

If Mr Hellman seeks a oneword answer to his rhetorical question it is "progress" something of which any sensible nation would be proud. DAVID ROBERTSON Technology Response Lid West Malvern,

Worcestershire

Sic: I do not think I am alone in my amazement that the Cabinet bas decided to support the Greenwich site as the focus of the British celebrations of the Millennium. I note with approval that the primary aim of Tony Blair's government is to ensure that the celebrations are enjoyed by the entire population of these slands.

Measures should be instituted to ensure that all inhabitants of Great Britain and Northern-Ireland have equal access to the event. The measure which would most directly achieve this would be for the ticket to visit Greeowich to include in the standard purchase price the full transportation costs from the place of residence in the UK to the exhibition site, be it by Uoderground, rail, bus, sea, air or

a combination of these. Of course, this will require in affect a subsidy paid by those living close to the site to those living farther away, but, aurely, such a uniform tickel price would be acceptable to people who are fortunate to live close to Greenwich. Dr DAVID PAYNE Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan

Godless

JOHN BATE

Oxford

Sir. The Independent's example of Arabic script "from the Koran" is in danger of causing as much offence to Muslims as the Nike logo ("Nike to trash trainers that offended Islam", 25 June), for the crucial words "but God" bave been omitted.

Volumes of verse

too slim today

Sir. Thank you for putting in a word or two for the plight of

penurious poets (Letter from the Editor, 2I June). It's good that you

praise the quality and readability

writers, even one so prestigious as

One reason, in my view, for the

failure of contemporary poets to

achieve huge sales is the craven

attitude of publishers of poetry.

Before the war, the poets were

published in handsome octavo

bard-cover editions at little less

are shovelled into minuscule

paperback editions at around a

fiver and oot many people huy

them. Yet the favourite poets, like

Hardy, Housman and Betjeman,

sell in thousands continually.

There's oo aversioo to poetry

among the reading public.

than the price of a novel; thus they

were in the public eye - today they

of our work, comparing it

Martin Amis.

favourably with that of prose

Your line of script in fact translates, albeit illogically, "There is no God ... and Mobammed is the messenger of God". JOHN ČROOK Winchester

GPs with talking difficulties

Sir: We welcome the report from Mencap highlighting the failings in GPs care for people with learning difficulties ("GPs ill-prepared for patients with learning difficulties", 23 June).

The King's Fund's work with people with learning difficulties shows that many of them are not receiving the preventive health care from doctors that they deserve. This is not necessarily the doctors' fault, since communicating with people who may oot be able to speak is a complex skill. Additional problems of confidentiality arise when adults with learning to sit in on the consultation.

At the King's Fund we suggest that medical training should include how to deal with this special group; that there should be a standard set of symbols for doctors to use in their practices and that preventive health care checks should be carried out as a matter of course for people with learning difficulties as they are for other distinct groups such as older

There should also be support to all primary healthcare staff to work in partnership with people to improve the quality of their lives. BARBARA McINTOSH Project Manager Day Service Design King's Fund London WI

Sir: Mr J N Johnson (Letters, 23 June) comments on evidence that surgeons in training often perform complex procedures for the first time without supervision. He explains that if the consultant was in the same operating theatre as the trainee surgeon then waiting lists would soar and hospitals would go bankrupt.
Implied in his statement is the

view that in order to prevent the hospital from getting into debt some surgeons will not necessarily practise best practice in relation to some patients who bappen to be under a trainee surgeon's knife. This is a remarkable view coming from a senior figure in the British Medical Association. It negates the fundamental basis of the professional responsibility of the consultant to the patient - for he or she is still the consultant's patient even though it is the trainee surgeon who is operating.

It may be that the pressures and distortions of the internal market bave driven some doctors to hehave as though they are accountants.

If a aurgeon believes that he should be in the same operating theatre as the trainee who is carrying out a complex procedure for the first time - theo it is absolutely clear where that surgeon should be. Impending bankruptcy not withstanding. Dr GERALD de LACEY Consultant Radiologist Northwick Park and St Mary's NHS Trust Harrow, Middlesex

Young masters

Sir: The current phenomenon of youthful political leadership might more accurately be labelled "neontocracy" rather than engineer a dubious linguistic hybrid "juventocracy" (Letters, 21 June). Or better still, in deference to William Pitt jnr and other youthful precursors, "neooeontocracy". STAN UNDERWOOD Carlton-le-Moorland, Lincoln

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056: e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

The Government's initiative on decommissioning arms challenges Sinn Fein to decide where it stands, says David McKittrick. For Unionists, too, the next few months will prove crucial

ern Ircland. Tony Blair's energy and attack this week institled unfamiliar urgency into the search for progress as be set timetables for both the paramilitaries and

But at the same time the dreary steeple of Drumcree parish church casts a long and ominous shadow over not just politics but over all of life in Northern Ireland, for fears are high that another confrontation is on the cards when the Orange brethren gather there on Sunday week.

The large numbers of sashes and other paraphernalia sold to new Orange members shows that many among the Protestant grass-roots are gearing up for yet another determined assertion of what they see as their heritage. Since last year's clashes the Orange ranks have been swelled by hundreds of what might be described as a militant tendency.

While many Orange greybeards would prefer to avoid confrontation, power in the marching season passes from the stately Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland to the men and youths on the streets. As one senior Orangeman said this week: "There's an air of

ones in the [Orange] institution.
The overriding thing is that at this time of the year they're easthis time of the year they're easily worked up.

Large numbers of them are unemployed – the economy doesn't make any difference to them. A lot of them don't start out to wreck the town but they come out and somebody says 'Right, boys' and they get going and then there's no stopping

Many non-members of the Protestants and Catholics alike, are voting with their feet in a rather different way, by simply getting out before 6 July. Travel agents report a huge increase in the numbers heading for Britain. the Irish Republic and further afield to escape Drumeree, variously describing the exodus as overwhelming, amazing and

In other words Northern Ireland has just invented refugee tourism. It is another example of how the reality of things here recruits, many of whom have can be so different from appearances: those people in the airport departure lounge are going to look like holidaymakers but actually they will be evacuees.

It is obvious that these are far from ideal conditions for the launching of the type of political initiative which Mr Blair unveiled this week. A bad Drumcree would be a major excitement among the younger setback for it and so too would

Either side, or both, may well flex their muscles and in their different ways cause trou-ble, but if they do there will be a political price to pay. The Blair approach means taking risks, but it has also captured the moral high ground in a way which John Major never quite managed to do.

The Government has laid down that political talks will start in earnest in mid-September. Sinn Fein will be allowed entry six weeks after an IRA ceasefire, with no requirement that republicans should pay an admission fee of handng in guns up front. For David Trimble and the Ulster Unionists the bad news was that the previous government's decommissioning demand has been

The period between now and mid-September may well provide a real test of the Government's nerve. It will certainly test, and may provide a final answer to, crucial questions over the sincerity of those Sinn Fein leaders who say they want, and can deliver, peace and negotiations in place of war.

On one reading these new arrangements can be portrayed as a victory for the republicans who, ever since the ceasefire of August 1994, bave been demanding entry to talks



without the decommissioning of IRA weaponry. Even after the ceasefire broke down in February of last year the central republican proposition has been that of a new ceasefire in exchange for real talks.

In the meantime republicans have prospered electorally, scooping almost 17 per cent of vote as nationalists endorsed their basic argument that the absence of peace was due primarily to London's refusal to allow the party into talks. Opinion polls confirmed that much of nationalist Ireland accepted that Sinn Fein really wanted negoriations but that John Major did not.

Mr Blair's approach has been to examine the stated republican requirements for talks and in effect to agree to each one of them. They wanted guaranteed entry, a brisk timetable and the removal of the decommissioning proviso: they got them. Some fine-tuning of detail may be necessary, but in its essentials the full republican shopping-list has been granted.

Yet the initial republican response bas been one not of jubilation but of uncertainty. Sinn Fein may in fact be experiencing a sense of loss as its familiar and long-successful

arguments have been removed by Mr Blair with almost surgi-cal precision. establishing a reputation for proceeding in good faith. This is doing the republicans

experiment. As he tests whether the republicans are sonable and obliging onc. The in a transparent manner, propaganda machine may

His operation was described no good at all, since they are by one observer yesterday as much more at home with a something of a controlled confrontational, hectoring prime minister than with a reaserious about peace he does so republican publicity and

Travel agents report a huge increase in the numbers heading away to escape Drumcree, calling the exodus amazing and overwhelming?

eschewing secret meetings with them in favour of openlyannounced contacts, and publishing his correspondence to

The methodology is almost as important as the substance, for with his open manner Mr Blair bas generated new funds of trust with important elements such as the Irish government, John Hume of the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Clinton administration. Where John Major was always dogged by the charge that he was in hock to Union -. ist MPs, Tony Blair is already

now need re-programming. The real test for republicans may come in the second half of next month, assuming that Drumcree passes without developing into a catastrophe. Although Mr Blair refrained from spelling out a deadline in a challenging fashion, entry

of July. The IRA and Sinn Fein could opt to play it long but there is no evident advantage in delaying a ceasefire until, say, next year rather than calling

into talks in mid-September

requires a ceasefire by the end

that the terms of entry would be any more favourable then.

The real test for Unionism will come possibly at Drumcree but certainly by mid-September, when it should start to become obvious whether David Trimble. Ulster Unionist leader, is to shape up as an unvielding tribal warrior or a leader capable of working out an bistoric accommodation with Irish nationalists.

If there is no IRA ceasefire the talks will begin witbout Sinn Fein. with Mr Trimble and Mr Hume under pressure to do real business together. That will be difficult enough, but talks with Sinn Fein present will represent a huge challenge

lan Paisley, his party and his allies will immediately exit, leaving Mr Trimble to decide whether to stay on as the republicans walk in or to join the Paisleyite exodus. Remaining would represent a huge step for a party which has traditionally regarded Sinn Fein as irreformable cheerleaders for IRA violence; but going means consigning the Protestant community to the wilderness with potentially dangerous consequences. The decision would truly be a defining moment. Thus the coming months may

of the most fundamental aspects of the Northern Ireland question, including whether republicans are capable of delivering peace and whether Unionists can reach accommodation with nationalists.

substantiate or demolish some

But next May has now been set as a deadline for political progress, most observers, and participants, will be amazed if any deal has been hammered out by then, whether or not Sinn Fein is part of the negoti-

In the meantime most attention will focus on whether the IRA will agree a ceasefire again. Most immediately the republicans will want cast-iron guarantees that the decommissioning card cannot be pulled from the pack by Unionists during negotiations in a way which could see Sinn Fein ejected from the talks. If that assurance is given then the last of Sinn Fein's technicalities will

have disappeared. What will remain, however, is the miasma of mistrust which bas for so long enveloped polnics, the peace process and indeed everyday life in Northern Ireland. This comes not just from the dread of Drumcree but also from the IRA's mistrust of all things and all politicians British, and from the poisonous state of community relations.

Two huge forces are at work here, pulling in opposite directions, both stemming mainly from the troubles. One is the desire for peace, based in large part on the shared experience of a quarter-century of conflict with the lesson, learnt the hard way, that there will be no absolute victory for any side.

But another is that quartercentury's baleful legacy of mistrust and ill-will, which has left the two communities poles apart. The next few months will belp answer the nagging question of which of these forces will prevail, and whether the people of Northern Ireland can ever learn to live together, if not in harmony then at least in peace.

COULD YOU Bood leaders must weign up all the fauts quickly. Wake important wouldn't do themselves. They must command both the trust and the If you think that you have these qualities, then don't write to the editor.

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Goodies or baddies, it's all in their names

has always been a fascinating subject of inquiry and speculation, so yet again I am proud to secure the services of that great expert, Dr Vernon Monicker, who has agreed to answer your queries on the origins and meaning of your name, or anyone else's name, come to that. Is William Hague the first

leader of the Tory Party to be named after somewhere foreign? And does his name in fact come from The Hague, the Dutch City?

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: No, there have been leaders of the Tory Party before now who were named after other places. Could you tell me who

they were, please? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Well, there was Anthony Eden. I think we can all agree that Eden is a foreign place, if also mythical. And of course Benjamin Disraeli had a name which really meant "from Israel" - indeed, 1 think his father, Isaac, used to spell the name D'Israeli, with an apostrophe, which made the origin even clearer. day there was no such place as Israel, so how could he he

named after it?
Dr Vernon Monicker writes: The name of Israel was well known to people from the Bible. The same is true of Eden. There was no such place as Eden in Anthony Eden's lifetime. but the name was familiar from the Bible. Eden, of course, took the side of Israel in the Suez Crisis of

Is that nieani to be significant? Dr Vernon Monicker

writes: No. I just thought of You haven't told us yet whether William Hague's name is derived from the Dutch city of The Hague. Dr Vernon Monicker writes: No. It is another

spelling of Haig. What does that come from? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Haig is another spelling of Huag, And what does Haag come

Dr Vernon Monieker writes: The Dutch town called the Hague.



Miles Kington

Ah! So William Hague is Dutch after all.

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Certainly not. A geographical surname was acquired when a man moved away from a place. not when he lived there. If a man is called William Kent, it is a sure sign that his ancestor moved away from Kent and then became known as Kent, or the man from Kent. If he stayed in Kent, he wouldn't be called the man from Kent. Statistically, you are likely to find fewer people called Kent in the county of Kent

tban elsewbere. Of course, other places do have leaders named after places. President Abraham Lincoln was named after a

town in England.
Dr Vernon Monicker writes: So what? Well, I just wondered if Abraham Lincoln were alive today, what his nickname

would be? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: "Lucky" Lincoln, I should think. Or "Old Man" Lincoln, perhaps.

No, I really meant - what would the abbreviation of Abraham be? Because although in the old days he was called simply "4be" Lincolu, I am not sure that it would be so simple today.

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Explain yourself. Well, abbreviations seem

to be changing. A lot of girls call themselves Abi these days as an abbreviation for Abigail, even though the shortened form looks vaguely ridiculous spelt "Abi". A loi of people called Alistair are known as "4li", which also looks ridiculous, partly because it looks exactly the same as the Arab name "Ali". partly because a

girls called Alison are also known as "Ali". We never did this in the old days. Alastair Cooke was never known as Ali Cooke. He might have been called 41 Cooke, at a pinch, but of course he

wasn L. Again... Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Nobody was called Al in those days. It reminded people too much of Al Capone. Gangsters' nicknames never catch on. Can you think of anyone else called Pretty Boy. or Dutch, or Sun Dance Kid? Hmm. Thinking of Al Capone, what was Al short

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: I should think he was short for very little.

Ho ha. I meant, what was Al an abbreviation of? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Alan?

Alan? ALAN?? Alan Capone? You're joking! Baddies never get called Alan... Can you think of any bad guy called Alan? Dr Vernon Monicker

writes: What about Alan Clark? Perhaps we can continue bls discussion some other

THE INDEPENDENT

Brown plans a budget worthy of his hero

avid Lloyd George is a politician who has had more mixed reviews from historians than almost any of this century, is back in fashion. Kenneth Clarke put a cartoon of him on his Christmas cards last year. And Gordon Brown, word has seeped out, regards Chancellor Lloyd George as something of a role model.

That is not all that surprising, given first that he was a fellow Celt, and secondly that there is a distinct shortage of alternatives in Labour's own pantheon, Philip Snowden, class traitor par excellence does not do. Stafford Cripps, is, well, too austere. Hugh Gaitskell might be a good if unexciting candidate but the name still has a slightly divisive ring about it. Jim Callaghan had the disaster of devaluation and the disaster of devaluation and Denis Healey, however kindly history may judge him, is still widely perceived as having some of the blood of Labour's 1979 defeat on his hands.

But there are positive, as well as negative, reasons for favouring the Welsh wizard. The radical 1909 budget defined the purpose of the Asquith government by having a long reach and laying the hasis of the modern national insurance system. Next week's hudget, the first Lahour one for 18 years, will surely be designed to have at least some of that defining role: it is easy, because we have known about it

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Tallets.

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used. But it is a bold step, not tried in any other country and earmarked for a clear social purpose. All the bolder since there are increasing signs that it will yield significantly more than the pledged £3hn, quite possibly significantly more than £5bn. And if it does, then it could well generate welfare-to-work programmes beyond those already publicly identified. Helping to get single mothers back to work perhaps? The one certainty is that the tax on utilities is popular. The focus groups which Labour is using in power as it did in opposition

accept a very high figure indeed. So the Budget would be a hig deal even if that were all it was doing. But it will not be. As with the 1909 hudget, the beginnings of welfare reform will be at the heart of it. But it will also have three other big themes: long-term stability, long-term investment, and fairness.

Stability is a matter of fiscal as well as monetary policy. Spending ministers like Frank Dobson at Health, already hoping for a lion's share of the £2.5bn contingency reserve, do not need to be told how serious Brown is about the spending part of the equation. Indeed given the optimism about Britain's fast-shrinking deficit some may wonder why they are being asked to wear a hair shirt at all. But Brown has always believed that the fatal tendency of past Labour governments has been to spend first, burt later. The manifesto was adamant about hanishing Labour's tax and spend past - a historic shift of which Brown, as much as Blair, was the architect in opposition. Indeed Brown hadly wants to cut the lowest rate of tax to 10p, an aspiration which he will certainly reaffirm on Wednesday, though enactment could wait until the task force under Martin Taylor of Barclays Bank has completed its study of the tax and benefit systems. And the party's leader-



Donald Macintyre

Lloyd George's in 1909 laid the basis of national insurance. Brown's is also intended to have a defining

panies releasing less eash in dividends should have more to plough back into the business. That does not mean that the Government has not faced a serious dilemma. On the one hand the Treasury case for because we have known about it for so long, to be bored with the idea of a windfall tax to fund work for the unemployed. Easy, hut a mistake. The levy on the privatised utilities may be a gamble, though not so much in the raising as in the the lending industry, you could argue this is a highly appropriate time for raising personal tax-arion, whether on incomes, or through higher

ship, from the Prime Minister

down, has been almost as con-

sistent in attacking the borrow-

ing levels generated by the pre-vious government as it has been in ruling nut increases in income

Which means that Brown

will raise revenue, probably

quite a lot of it. Snme calcula-

tions are that the net increases

could be £4hn-£5bn excluding those from the windfall tax. Most, if not all of those taxes,

will serve purposes implicit in the Budget's other themes.

Green taxes like raising the

price of petrol, and even extra duties on tobacco and drink have to be carefully imposed to

he fair; they affect the poor most. If they did not Brown

would not be pledged to reduc-ing VAT on fuel to

5 per cent. But if, as seems a

near certainty. Brown cuts div-

idend tax credits, yielding a probable £3hn, he will be able to argue that that is a measurc,

at least in the long term, for

Investment. Dire predictions of a stock market collapse after the proposal was floated have

not been realised. And com-

VAT, on consumption. Consumer booms mean inflation, because increased demand increases prices. And inflationary pressures which are not checked with tax increases have to be checked with higher interest rates.

On the other, Tony Blair's jealous guardianship of the manifesto has meant that anything which hreaks the cast-iron pledges not to increase income tax, or to extend the VAT hase, is taboo. Never mind that Treasury officials, or the CBI, may be clamouring for across-the-board increases, including ones on personal tax. Just imagine William Hague standing up next Wednesday and being able to say, "We told you so. You've done just what we said you would do. You lied in the manifesto." Brown does not want, will not allow, that speech to be made - or at least to be made with any credibility. Nevertheless, he is determined to be pru-

dent. And the manifesto, as he himself pointed out in well reported speeches before the general election, leaves the Government quite a lot of room. What is more, as Brown certainly knows, one of the previous gov-ernment's most signal failures, perhaps what got it into most trouble in the late 1980s, was the failure to deal with the impact of City deregulation and the credit boom in 1986-7. The huge windfall from the building societies could pose some similar dangers. Those who say confidently they know just what further changes - tike scrapping mortgage interest tax relief or reducing some allowances - will be made should be treated with serious caution. And there will he no tax increase that cannot be explained in terms of the Government's main purpose. But this is a Chancellor for the inng term - a radical who wants to be responsible.

Whose death is it anyway? by Suzanne Moore

ome people teave their hearts in San nately I just did my hack in, with the result that by the time I got off the plane at Heathrow I had to be taken to haspitat in an ambulance. Once inside the ambulance I immediately felt better, confident in the knowledge, because I watch ER, that by the time I got to casualty, 15 sex gods would jump up and down on me, forming deeply meaningfut relationships with

me and each other in the process. Mostly I thought that they would make the pain stop. What actually happened of course was that I was left on a trolley in a corridar for three hours-"no porters today, love" and treated as a wimp because the injection they eventually gave me did nothing to stop it hurting. I don't want to overdramatise the situation. I know I was not going to die of back pain. I know that they probably had far more serious cases to deat with, yet it wasn't until I went into shock, partly because I couldn't move and partly because I realised I was not in an episode of ER, that anyone did anything. Even then, the doctors attitude was that I had already had enough pain relief and that I must put up with it. This puritanical attitude to pain relief will not be news to anyone who has had to watch someone die in an NHS hospital. Individual doctors and nurses may be fantastic but many people are left to suffer when they don't need to, because of a fear of

using narcotics.
This issue has been dramatised by Brookside, in which we see Mick and Elaine Johnson smother her mother, Gladys Charlton, with a pillow. Gladys has had terminal cancer for months and begs to be put out of her misery. Her GP has told her that he can only prescribe "so much morphine". Why? So far the issue that this drama has been said to raise is the one scribed narcotics to their drugs that may in the end have euthanasia, and I count myself of euthanasia. The other spurious issue preoccupying the press as always is the "Do soaps go too far in their efforts to bust taboos and up the ratings?" issue. The real issue here though, I think, is the one of pain relief.

Unfortunately in real life, as Llora Finlay, professor of palliative medicine at the University of Wales, pointed out last week, the reluctance of many doctors to use morphine means that up to 30,000 cancer patients a year will die in unnecessary distress. There is a fear of addiction, as well as of hastening the patient's death. You don't kill patients by relieving their pain. Morphine is a very safe drug for pain con-trol," Finlay said, adding that effective pain control may extend life.

In Virginia, some doctors have been prevented from practising because they are thought to have over-pre- them to increase the dosage of people who feel strongly about



A bedside vigil for Elaine's terminally-ill mother in Channel 4's 'Brookside'

To refuse drugs to those in chronic pain for fear that they may get hooked or, God forbid, actually like them, is a terrible scandal

patients. Two patients in helped her on her way. It is a chronic pain after car crashes have committed suicide as a result, yet the fear expressed is that these patients are somehow getting high or getting a rush off the drugs they need to maintain a tolerable life.

Certainly when my mother was dying of cancer I found this attitude intolcrable. One had literally to beg doctors to up the dose of diamorphine in her syringe-driver (a kind of intravenous pump that means patients can administer their own dose of the drug). Once she was taken to a hospice we all felt a tremendous relief because the pretence of her getting better was finally gone, and pain relief was oo longer such a problem. Even there, however, a kind of code was in practice whereby once she had slipped into unconsciousness we had to suggest to the doctors that she was still in pain, in order for

cliché, I know, to say that we do not deal with death very well, but we don't. The training of medical staff often means that life-preserving measures have to be seen to be taken even with patients who are terminally ill. Thus smoking and drinking is frowned upon even if you have only got two weeks left in which to do it. In contrast, in the hos-

pice my mum was in, a drinks

trolley came round with the

drugs trolley and we all needed a drink by then. The sight of Dennis Potter swigging morphine from his hip flask and talking of the pleasures of smoking, in the last interview he gave, burst out of our television screens because it was in so many ways life-enhancing. The prevailing puritanism that says life must be extended at all costs is precisely what brings about the debate nn euthanasia. Most among them, feel so as a result of watching someone close to them die in agony. This posi-tion is reached through pragmatism rather than philosophical debates about rights and the meaning of life. If giving birth and dying are

among the most painful experiences we go through, perhaps we could learn a lot from the experiences of women in childhirth. Different ideologies and approaches in this area have meant that some women feel that because pain is in some way "natural" they must endure it no matter what,

though, as is often pointed out, not many nf us believe in "natural dentistry" anymore. Nor do we think that general anaesthesia for majnr surgery is somehow playing at being God. At one ante-natal class 1 attended I was struck by a woman in a knit-your-own muesli jumper and carth shoes.
"I bet she wants a natural child-hirth." I thought. When the time came to ask the midwife questions, she said: "I've had a natural childbirth. This time I want the drugs in the lift before

I even get nn to the ward." What matters, of course, is choice. Just as women should not be made to feel inadequate if they want pain relief in labour, then neither should anyone whn is in chronic pain. The natural childbirth movement came about as a result of the over-medicalisation of childbirth, the handing over nf midwifery skills to doctors, who often had less knowledge in this field. It was a way of wresting hack control. Yet refusing epi-slotomies or caesareans or inductions because they suit the needs of some of the medical establishment should not be the same as refusing all medical advances in this area.

No one should be made to feel that they have failed at childbirth or that they are failing at dying because they cannot endure the level of suffering. We have still not discovered anything that is more effective at relieving pain than morphine, yet because of the associations with addiction we are still frightened of it. My mother controlled her own morphine intake because she did not want to lapse into unconsciousness, even though she was in pain. Many patients do this. She was also brought up to believe that she must endure a certain amount of suffering and not make a fuss. In the end her loved ones had to make a fuss for her.

In Brookside, Gladys Charlton's relatives suffocate her because they see no other way out. We cannot stop the pain of death, we cannot stop the pain of loss, but not to relieve the suffering of the dying is a gross inhumanity. Most of us would nnt let our pets suffer in this way. To refuse drugs to those who need them for fear that they may get hooked, or, God forbid, actually like them, is a terrible scandal but one that does on silently and behind elosed doors every day of our lives. It is surely up to the living to extend the life-choices of everyone, even those at the very end of their lives.



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Britain's Hong Kong hypocrisy

Lee Chu-ming, leader of Hnng Kong's most popular political party, the Democrats, put down his chop-sticks and said, in his usual quiet but intense tone: "Mr Fenby, you are an Englishman, so can you tell me how that man can sleep

Not knowing which man he had in mind, I raised my eyebrows as we lunched together m the Hong Kong Cluh.

"The Governor," Mr Lee explained. "He has betrayed me. How can be sleep at night?" Mr Lee was talking about a compromise deal hetween Britain and China over the composition of the bench of judges on the Court of Final Appeal, which will replace the Privy Council as the top court here when Hong Kong becomes a special administrative region of China next week. He said that Chris Patten had taken him aside after a meeting and promised to fight to the last for the formula originally backed by Britain.

'You ain't seen nothing yet." Mr Lee quoted the Governor as having assured him. But, for all the Ronald Reagan words, a compromise was reached between London and Peking. and Mr Lee was left pondering

the perfidy of the British. I don't know how well Chris Patten slept the night before last. Perhaps an occasional pang of something close to anger interrupted one of his last

ust two years ago. Martin shumbers in the quiet of his mansion. If there is one theme which the last governor has drummed away at for months it is the complete unacceptability of the provisional legislature which will be installed in the early hours of Tuesday.

This body will replace the legislature elected in 1995, under the democracy reforms introduced by Mr Patten to which China took such grave exception. China insists that the provisional body is essential because the soon-do-die legislature contravenes the agree-ments it reached with Britain over the return of Hong Kong. And, since Hong Kong will become part of China at midnight on Monday, China's decision is the one that counts, at least until a new, partly elected legislature comes into being

next summer. Mr Patten thunders against the provisional body with the kind of barbs that would go down a treat in the Commons. but sometimes sound strangely out of tune in the rather different air here. Tony Blair announces that he will attend the handover ceremony at midnight, but boycott the swearingin of the provisional body a couple of hours later. Robin Cook appeals to European Union governments to join the British hoycott. Madeleine Albright says that the United States will walk out in a high-

in defence of democracy.
And then, on Wednesday

Chief Executive of Hong Kong,
Tung Chee-hwa, and others

Tung Chee-hwa, and others

Tung Chee-hwa, and others

Tung Chee-hwa, and others

Tung Chee-hwa, and others British military band rehearing the Last Post for its final performance here wafted across town, we hegan to hear annther change of tune. It came first

from the Americans. Yes, Mrs Alhright would keep up her boy-cott, but the US would be represented at the swearing-in by its Consul-General. Where, we

wondered in the newsroom, did that leave the transatlantie entente? Had Bill done Tony down? But wait. Something even

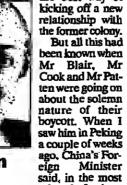
Fenby more amazing was happening. First a British spokesman here said London was considering its position. Then, as evening fell, so did the news: Britain would be represented at the swearing in by not one, but two officials - the head of its delegation to the Joint Liaison Group with China

Consul-General. The decision to be represented by three at the swearingin may be sensible and rational. It may even be, to use a word profile demonstration of the Bill-and-Tony show in action

and the current senior trade

commissioner who will become

against whom Britain bears no public grudge will be sworn in at the same time. To have been completely absent would have been a slur on them, and bardly the best way of



Jonathan

relaxed of voices. that it was up to the guests at the handover to decide which ceremonies they wanted to attend. The ball was

in Mr Blair's court. He shaped up to drive it fearlessly to the baseline of democracy, despatching his Foreign Secretary to the net to smash Britain's European partners into agreement. And then, as racket approached ball, he faltered. and went for a dolly shot that bounced inconclusively into the tramlines of hypocrisy.

It was an all too symbolic final half-gesture. British policy which Mr Patten's aides have towards Hong Kong in the last flung at me with contempt in the year of colonialism has been down a joh with the new China Mornine Post'.

has remained true to his colours. His masters back home in London have shilly-shallied between bathos and dither. Last year, John Major promised us, Kop-style, that

Hong Kong would never walk alone. Malcolm Rifkind girded his loins and went into battle with the Chinese, got nowhere at all, cut short his visit to vote to save Douglas Hogg's skin in a Mad Cow debate, and managed to antagonise just about everybody: nnly eight of the 60 members of the Legislative Council turned out to meet hum at Government House.

Westminster and Government House spoke of a great initiative that was being cranked up by the finest minds at Her Majesty's disposal to shake Peking in its boots: all that emerged was the laughable that emerged was the laughable wheeze of inviting Peking to go to the international court to test the legality of the provisional legislature. Since China says it is Britain which broke the rules, the chances of it agreeing are about as great as those of William Hague standing aside to make way for Chris Patten to lead the Tories.

Now we have the final fudge One of Mr Patten's senior officials who thunders against the coming changes and denounces the evils of pragmatism is

regime. Several holders nf British decorations have just been named in Mr Tung's first honours list. A leading husinessman here compared Hong Kong to bamboo - it hlends with the wind hut never snaps. Mr Blair and Mr Cook seem to have absorbed the lesson.

Their motivation is as clear as the flotsam in the harbour. They want to put the Patten years of dispute with China behind them. Rightly, they see China as one of the major foreign policy issues for their government, and they must he acutely aware of how Germany and France are stealing a march in trade and investment.

But, again, they knew all that when they were striking their high moral tone over the boycott. Realism is a very sensible way of conducting government, but if you are going to act in a pragmatic manner, you only make yourself look stupid and hypocritical if you hand out lessons from the pulpit beforehand. Or is Hong Kong, for Mr Blair, as for the Tories, an afterthought, a faraway place over which empty attitudes can be struck since the electorate in Basildon couldn't give a toss? Maybe it's just as well that Mr Patten will be leaving on Monday night; otherwise he might have found himself ohliged to resign on a matter of principles

reported to be about to nail The writer is editor of the South

-or, at least, losing some sleep.

Charlie Chester

Painter, golfer, archer, songwriter, poet, novelist, historian, casino owner, disc jockey, King of the Water Rats, and - above all - comedian: Charlie Chester will long be remembered for his famous opening phrase. This is Cheerful Charlie your Chinup Boy Chester!"

National celebrations will mean less without him: he was BBC Radio's official host for every wartime anniversary, from Dunkirk and D-Day through to his most recent programme on VE Day plus 50.

He was born in Eastbourne in 1913, son of a cinema signpainter and part-time rollerskating instructor, and a mother who could sing. At the age of seven Charlie sang out loud and clear at a children's competition at the Eastbourne Winter Gardens, and won. It was the first of no fewer than 82 talent compeudons he would win before turning professional performer as a teenager. By this time his voice had broken into an attractive yodel, all the rage in the early Thirties. Teaching himself the guitar, Charlie now did a creditable impression of Jimmy Rogers, "America's Singing Brakeman", and was soon supplying vocals for the Dixies Dance Band of Ewell. He was 17 when he went out as a solo act for the first time, singing and twanging under the name of

Duke Daly. From one-night stands and masonics, Chester's talent would eventually lead to Royal Variety performances at the Palladium and his crowning as King Rat. But, for all the parade of successes, there would be one area of showbiz at which even Cheerful Charlie would admit failure: the films. After a gagpacked début with his radio Crazy Gang in a clutch of Min-



istry of Food Flashes, one- Blue". The naval show was minute newsreel trailers made in one day in 1945, only three performed by Sub-Lieutenant in one day in 1945, only three proper films featured him in the appeared as himself giving a show in Holiday Camp (1947), getting the campers to "bob up and down like this", and then singing his own comedy song,
"The Farmer's Boy", featuring
grunts, snorts, whistles and the

famous yodel. Twenty-four years later he appeared as the late Max Miller in a small semidocumentary, Top of the Bill, and finally played a small role in the soft-porn feature Can I Come Too (1979).

It was curious that Chester

sbould have been cast as Miller, the famous "Cheeky Chappie" of the music balls, for the similarity of their style, facial features, and snazzy dress from snap-brimmed trilby down, had caused ructions in his early comedy career. Even their signing-off songs, complete with guitar accompaniment, were similar. As Chester revealed in a recent television Kings of Comedy programme, Miller attended one of Chester's performances, hringing along his solicitor to take notes. Luckily for Chester he had chosen "Cheerful" and not "Cheeky" as his hill-matter. In time after Chester's wartime rise to the too as a hroadcaster, the rivals made up and even appeared together in a shared top of the bill. Chester almost failed his

chance as a broadcaster. Granted his first BBC radio audition in 1937, he was warned by the Head of Variety that unless he toned down his gags he would he banned from the air. Reassured by the programme secretary, Chester went ahead with the radio show exactly as he had performed in the trial. Afterwards the Head of Variety sought him out, congratulated him on his good reception, and said he was pleased Chester bad taken his advice and changed his iokes.

It was the Second World War that gave Chester his much-needed boost into the nation's heart. As a sergeant in the Royal Irish Fusiliers he was seconded into the army entertainment unit, Stars in Battledress. At this time a BBC series for the Forces, Mediterranean Merry-Go-Round, was written and performed by the Armed Services themselves, "Bringing Music and Fun to Boys and Girls

Eric "Heart-throb" Barker; wbole of his 65-year career. He the RAF show was Much-Binding-in-the-Marsh, starring Flight Lieutenant Richard Murdoch and Wing Commander Kenneth Horne; the army show was a package supplied by various units, and thus had not the pulling power of the other branches of the services.

Sergeant Chester was ordered to write and perform "A successful radio series!" and be certainly did. Originally entitled Studio Stand Easy, it was announced as "Look out for laughs in the next half-hour with Cheerful Charlie Chester and his Crazy Gang of other cranks?" Then came the signature tune, "Shoot the Khaki To Me". This is less well remembered than the signature song full of sound effects that started his long-running post-war series Stand Easy: "Ring that hell (ding-dong), hang that drum (bang-bang), sound that horn (beep-beep), shoot that gun (beans)."

gun (bang!)." The original radio Crazy Gang were "Professor" Ken Morris, who "murdered a song at the piano" every week, Joc Giggs, Len Marten, Louise Gainsborough, Ramon St Clair the tenor, and Arthur Haynes, the only one of the gang to rise above Chester himself in public affection, via his later television series. The hysterical laughter of the studio audience which almost drowned the opening announcement was caused by Charlie and Co silently and swiftly removing the anouncer's trousers.

A serial within the show was "Tarzan of the Tapes", featur-ing Stab-U the Elephant Boy and his regular order to his pachyderm, and "Git up there, Forsythe!" The scene was always set thus, "In the heart of the dreaded jungle of Janzibulla which is situated deep in the African province of Japonica... , and everyone who ever

beard it will remember the regular chant of the natives: Down in the jungle, living in a tent, Better than a prefab - no rentl

Later came Whippit Kwik the Cat Burglar, whose whistled signature tune made him a national favourité. Tenor St Clair was replaced by Frederick Ferrari, known as "The Voice". Chester wrote him a signature song, "When Love Descended like an Angel". Unfortunately that is all be wrote, until listener demand forced him to write a full version so that Ferrari could record it.

Chester was, in fact, no mean songwriter. Early in the war he wrote a hit, "The Sergeant-Major's Serenade", and followed it with such sentimental favourites as "Down Forget-Me-Not Lane", "Primrose Hill" and comedy numbers for the Gang like "The Old Bazaar in Cairo". This included the verse: Rice pad, very good, what's it all

Made il in a kettle and we couldn'i get it out. Everybody took a turn to suck it

through the spoul!"
For a while Chester even ran his own publishing company, Victory Music.

Stand Easy, which was given the accolade of a comic strip version in Radio Fun, ran from 1945 to 1951, when the title was changed to Keep Smiling. All the scripts were written by Chester, of course, but with the dawn of the sit-com age Pat Dunlop and Maurice Drake were commissioned to write one for Chester. Called Come To Char-Lee, Chester found himself sharing a flat with Cardew Robinson as his valet and Michael Bentine as his zany neighbour. Love interest came from Dora Bryan and Patricia Cutts, who later became Patricia Wayne the film star.

Never one to rest on his laurels, in 1949 Chester founded the Cheerful Order of Chin-Ups, complete with its own himonthly journal, the Charlie Chester Chin-Up Mag, price fourpence off all bookstalls. Soon Chester's self-promotion style changed to charity work, which would eventually win him an MBE in 1990.

Television called Chester in 1952 and he devised Pot Luck. the first ever British audience participation series. Described as a "programme of prizes and surprises", it involved mem-bers of the audience passing a pot around until the music stopped. Whoever was then holding the pot bad to come up on stage and take part in a quiz. Supporting Chester were Harry Seltzer, recently seen as a venerable but still sprightly comic on Michael Barrymore's television show, and Leslie Welch the Memory Man.

Although Pot Luck was extremely popular and ran for some years, Chester's greatest television success was in Edu-



other link with the past here, for Evans had previously been played in films by none other than Max Miller. There were two runs of the series, 1957 and 1958.

After stage productions with his Gang such as Midsummer Madness, the George and Alfred Black hit of the 1949 Blackpool

Edgar Wallace's popular Cock-ney opster. There was yet an-popular West End musical Zip Goes a Million. In later days he returned to radio with his own listener question-and-request series, Sunday Soapbox. This started in 1969 and ran continuously until he was rushed to

hospital following a stroke.

Rat in 1952. He wrote the history of the charity in 1984, and was appointed their Poet Laureate. Whenever a fellow Rat died, Chester wrote a short poem in their memory. Those so honoured include Robb Wilton, Wee Georgie Wood, David Nixon, Sid Field and A staunch member of the Sandy Powell. The question showbusiness charity the Water now remains, who will write a 1997.

Charlie Chester.

Denis Gifford

Cecil Victor Manser (Charlie Chester), comedian: born Eastbourne, East Sussex 26 April 1914; MBE 1990: married 1939 Donta Langley (died 1992: one son). 1994 Joan Jarvis: died Twickenham, Middlesex 26 June

Gp Capt George Denholm

As leader of 603 Squadron George Denholm was involved in the shooting down of the first German aircraft over British soil at the start of the Second World War. This was at Port Seton in East Lothian, the aircraft a Heinkel 1-11 bomber which had orders to destroy the threecantilever Forth Railway Bridge. A year later during the Battle

of Britain, in September 1940, Denholm had to hale out of his Spitfire over Kent, just after he had shot down a couple of raiding German planes. Weeks afterwards, be was yet again shot down, after engagement in combat. He was promptly awarded, in October 1940, what was described by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Arthur (later Lord) Tedder, as an outstanding

Distinguished Flying Cross. The high moment of Denholm's war service in Scotland

Denholm, a lady of much achievement in public work in Central Scotland, then his young wife of a couple of years, tells the story: "George came home to Bo'ness, and said, 'You'll never guess what happened today.' 'Well, no, I cannot guess.' 'We forced down and captured the Deputy Führer, Rudolf Hess. You did what? We forced down Hess!" "The whole story is elegantly set out in Lord James Douglas-Hamilton's book Motive for a Mission (1971).

George Denholm was born at Tidings Hill, Bo'ness, the house in which he died 88 years later, into a well-established family of coal exporters and pit-prop/timber importers, based at Bo'ness. on the Forth, from medieval times until the late 19th century the third largest port in Scot-land. Educated at Cargilfield

came on 10 May 1941. Betty he was less than happy), he went to St John's College, Camhridge, where be was supremehappy, and bad the good fortune to have C.W. Guillehaud, most practical of Cambridge economists, as his supervisor in Part I of the Tripos. Guillebaud took a lasting interest in Denholm, but advised him to do Part II Law. It belped greatly that his

family were determined that he should have some experience of life and husiness hetween school and university - not a fashionable concept in those days. Denholm was despatched "to learn a thing or two" at a tough Glasgow office, so that he could appreciate Cambridge and his good fortune the more.

At Cambridge, much of his time was devoted to the guns and artillery section of the Univer-

1550; Charles Stewart Parnell, Irish nationalist leader, 1846; Sir John

Prep School and Fettes (where sity Cadet Corps. This gave him a taste for fighter-flying, and prompted him to join the 603 equadron of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force in 1933, learning to fly at the MacMerry / East Fortune Aerodromes in East Lothian. Going full-time in August 1939, Denholm was a natural choice to lead 603 Squadron on the outhreak of war.

Denholm counted his luck as a survivor of the Battle of Britain. The only occasion that this quietly formidable man was slightly curt with me was when as a teenager I asked him, "And what did you do when friends or other pilots were not there to eat in the mess, after failure to return from a mission?" "We accepted it, and got on with the joh."
In 1941, Denholm was as-

signed to a hizarre and extraordinary ploy which, like a number of notions from the fertile imag-

ination of Winston Churchill, ended in farce. He had to fly Boston bombers out of Ack lington aerodrome armed with buge searchlights, which could be turned on, once radar had picked up enemy bombers, so that night fighters could then shoot them down. Denholm reminisced dryly with the understatement that was his style, that "the scheme was not a success".

He was then transferred to an activity no less perilous for the pilots than the Battle of Britain. In the 18-month runup to D-Day, it was the task of the Mosquito fighter-homhers to strafe enemy positions in the Pas-de-Calais and throughout northern France. This was trehly dangerous - ack-ack fire, the occasional German Messerschmitt, and the difficulties associated with lowflying itself exacted a heavy toll.

Denholm was hrave and lucky. Surviving this, he became Demohbed in 1947, Denthe Station Commander at North Weald, Perhaps it was not altogether fortuitous that it was the base of the Norwegian and Danish wing. Denholm, who had been sent by his father to

Copenhagen for a year in the 1930s, to look after the Scandinavian end of the shipping and timber business, had a passable knowledge of Danish, at a time when not all Danes were fluent in English. Moreover, his young wife. Betty Tooms, with whom he was to be supremely happily married for 58 years, was partly of "Viking extraction". Their friendship with the Norwegian Commanding Officer, Helge Nehre, was to last for decades. It was particularly fitting that Denholm should be one of the

way at Garda Moen Airbase outside Oslo.

holm devoted himself for the next three decades to J&J Denholm. As a Bo'ness town councillor for a short period in the 1950s, he strongly opposed the decision to close Bo'ness Docks in favour of Grangemouth. But once the decision - misguided, in retrospect, in my opinion was taken, the firm moved to Grangemouth and Glasgow.

His last public appearance was on 27 October 1996 at the ceremony for the rededication of the replica Spitfire - in the colours of 603 Edinhurgh fighter squadron - at which he was venerated, and rightly so, hecause he was beloved by the men he led. Wing Commander Bob Kemp said, "If the auxiliaries had not been in place in 1939 it is fair to say we would



Denholm: quietly formidable

not have won the Battle of Britain.

Tam Dalyeli

George Lovell Denholm, nir office officer and businessman: born Bo'ness. West Lothian 20 December 1908; DFC 1940: managing director, I&I Denholm 1947-80; married 1939 Betty Tooms (two sons, two daughters); died Bo'ness 15 June 1997.

Births. Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

ROHDE: To Simon and Juliette, a baby girl, Jemima Mary, a beautiful sister for Florence and William. Born on Tuesday 27 May.

DEATHS

GUNTHER: Mavis H.D., MD (Cantab), widow of the late Eustace Rolfe Gunther, died peacefully aged 94 on 22 June, a much loved mothcr. grandmother and great-grand-mother. No flowers; donations to Heacham PCC welcomed for the fabric of St Mary's Church, c/o John Lincoln, 40 Greevegate, Hunstanton, Norfolk PE36 6AB.

ROBBINS: William George, died sud-denly on 24 June, aged 41. Despite his periods of disorientation, resulting from being invaded and taunted by the voices and dehisions of schizpbrenia, his warm, fundamental, generous and courageous nature was recognised and loved by family, friends, fellow patients and carers alike. In his times of lucidity and clarty, he never, ever, had a mean thoug Funcral, family and friends, St Maryle-bone Crematorium, East End Road, London N2, t1.30cm, 2 July.

cements for Gazette BIRTHS. MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, MARKIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries. In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 1171-203 2012) or forest to 0171-294 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette aais must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be ac-companied by a telephone number:

Birthdays The Right Rev Leonard Ashton Honorary Assistant Bishop, Oxford,

82; Mr Eustace Braithwaite, writer and diplomat, 75; Mr Tommy Cannon, comedian, 59; Mr David Clel-land MP, an Assistant Whip, 54; Mr Alan Coren, writer, journalist and broadcaster, 59; The Most Rev Mau-Catholic Archbishop of Birming mer general secretary, Girls' Friendly Society, 72; Professor Michael Dummett, Wykeham Professor Emeritus of Logic, Oxford University, 72; Miss Shirley Ann Field; actress, 59: Mr Robin Guthrie, director of Social and Economic Affairs, Council of Europe, 60; Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Halliday, 74; Lord Hope of Craighead, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 59; Mr Bruce McGowan, former Headmaster. Haberdashers' Aske's School, 73; Miss Muriel Paylow, actress, 75; Mr Duncan Robinson, Director, Fitzwilliam Museum, 54; Dr Thurstan Shaw, archaeologist, 83; The Very Rev Alan Warren, Provost Emeritus of Leicester, 65; Mr William Wilson, chief constable, Central Scotland, 54; Mr Hugh Wood, composer, 65; Mr Terence Wynn, MEP, 51.

Anniversaries

Births: Louis XII, King of France, 1462; Charles IX, King of France,

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales, based on HMY Bri-

tannua, visits Hong Kong to represent the

Queen at the transfer of sovereignty of Hong Kong and the associated events. The Duke of York attends the Farewell

Dinner of the Royal Hospital School As-

sociation at the Royal Naval College, London SE10, The Princess Royal, Pa-

Monash, engineer and general, 1865; Helen Adams Keller, blind, deaf and mule scholar and teacher, 1880. Deaths: Giorgio Vasari, painter and art historian, 1574; William Dodd, forger, hanged 1777; James Lewis Macie Smithson, scientist and founder of the Smithsonian Institution, 1829; Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormons (Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-Day Saints), mur-dered in prison 1844; Sir John Lo-gan Campbell, statesman, 1912; Clarence Malcolm Lowry, novelist 1957. On this day: Jack Cade de-feated Henry VI's forces under Stafford at Sevenoaks, 1450; the Ladies' Mercury, the first woman's magazine, was issued, 1693; Bonnie Prince Charlie, disguised as a maid, escaped to Skye, 1746; the Central London Etectric Railway was opened, running between Shepherd's Bush and the Bank, 1900; the musical show The Co-Optimists was first produced, London, 1921; President Truman ordered the United States Air Force and Navy to Korea, 1950; the first nuclear power station was opened at Obninsk, near Moscow, 1954; a French airbus with 216 pas-

sengers was hijacked to Libya by the

PLO, 1976; the independence of the

Djibouti republic was proclaimed,

1977. Today is the Feast Day of St

Cyril of Alexandria, St George Mtas-

las, king of Hungary, St Samson of

attends the 21st Annual Conference

and Exhibition at Southampton University; and as Colonel-in-Chief, the

Royal Signals, attends the Master of Sig-nals Farewell Dinner, Blandford Camp, Dorset The Duke of Gioncester, Patron, Building Centre Trust, opens the Export

Action Centre at the Building Centre, London WCl. The Duke of Kent, Pres-

ident, All England Lawn Tennis and

deli, St John of Chinon, St Ladis-

Constantinople, The Martyrs of Arras and Si Zoilus of Cordova.

Lectures

National Gallery: Norman Coady, "Moons (iv): Two Immaculate Conceptions, by Velázquez and Valdés

Victoria and Albert Museum: Francis Pugh, "Britain in the mid-20th Century: good design?", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: James Malpes, "Faust, Flowers and Magic: Klee. Redon and Chagail", 1pm.

Dinners

Heraldry Society

Mr John Brooke-Little, Founder and Chairman of Council, Heraldry Society, presided at the Golden Jubilee Dinner held yesterday at Painter-Stainers' Hall, London EC? Sir Bernard Ingham was the princi-

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 9.08pm.

United Synagogues: 8181-343 8989. Fed United Synagogues: 0181-202 2263.
Union of Liberat and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform 4731. Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform 5713-328 1036.

Croquet Club, attends the Wimble ships, London SW19. Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Reg-ineur mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Bettalion The Royal Regiment of Wales mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace,

Risk of prejudice in French trial not shown Bench Divisional Court (Lord

Justice Pill and Mr Justice Astill) 25 June 1997

Evidence purporting to demonstrate hostility in France 10-wards Algerian Muslims, and of a media campaign following an outbreak of bombing in France, was not sufficent to show a risk of prejudice by reason of race, religion, nationality or political opinions at the trial for terrorist offences of two men whose extradition was sought by the

French Government. The applicants each sought a writ of habeas corpus. Orders had been made for their return to France following a request by the French government for their extradition. Boutarfa had dual French and Algerian nationality, and Ramda had Algerian nationality. They were accused of offences connected with terrorism. In the second half of 1995 bomhings and attempted bomhings had occurred in Paris and elsewhere in France. Another man had been arrested and had impli-

cated both applicants. Ben Emmerson (B.M. Birnherg & Co) for the applicants; Jumes Lewis (CPS) for the Governor of Bellmarsh Prison and the Government of France.

Lord Justice Pill said that it had been submitted for the applicants that if they were returned to France they might be LAW REPORT

prejudiced at their trial by reason of their race, religion or political opinion or, in the case of Ramda his nationality, within the meaning of those terms in section 6(1)(d) of the Extradi-

Allied officers who received

the German surrender in Nor-

A body of material had been placed before the court which sought to demonstrate that there was overwhelming evidence of widespread intolerance and racism in France towards Algerian Muslims which had been inflamed by the press, both generally, and in relation to the applicants and the offences they were alleged to have committed. Terrorism had heen linked with Islamic fun-

damentalism. A large bundle of press reports had been submitted to support the submission as to racial intolerance in France and that the guilt of the applicants had been asserted and assured. Particular reliance was placed upon a statement by the Minister of Justice on 9 Novemher 1995: "He [Ramda] had played a role that was maybe not exclusive but at any rate essential in the bombing campaign that had struck our

country since 25 July. It was also argued that the French legal system did not

al would he by judges alone at a special assize court. The court had no power to stay a prosecution on the ground that pre-trial publicity had rendered a fair trial impossible. It did not give a reasoned judgment and there was no right of appeal save on a point of law. There was no attack on the special court as such, but it was claimed that, in the absence of procedural and substantive safeguards, there was a risk of

situation which had arisen. Tri-

ticular situation which had The French government stated that Article 64 of the French constitution confirmed the independence of the judiciary from the executive. As to the statement by the Minister of Justice, that reflected his personal view and could not have any influence on the criminal

prejudice at the trial in the par-

The concept that a public statement made by a Minister of Justice in relation to a major investigation reflected only his personal view was a difficult one. In relation to their section 6 claim, however, the applicants faced an insumountable obstacle. The risk of prejudice at the trial have safeguards to deal with the must be shown to be by rea-

الكذا من ألاصل

son of race, religion, nationality or political opinions. Even if it could be shown that a media campaign which followed a serious outbreak of bombing did create a risk of prejudice, it was inconceivable that a risk could be present for any of the reasons stated in section 6.

The court had been invited to infer not only that the judges would be prejudiced against the applicants but also that they would be prejudiced on one or more of the grounds in section 6(1)(d). If there were to be potential for unfairness, it could not be said that it might arise from the stated criteria as distinct from other possible factors, such as an abhorrence of the dreadful crimes which had heen committed in France hy some person or persons

Generally, no risk of any lack of fairness at the trial of either of the applicants could be found. The status, abilities and experience of the judges of the special court were such as would ensure a fair trial. There was no serious possibility that in performing their duties they would be influenced by inflammatory press reports or the reported remarks of the Minister of Justice. The applications were

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

refused.

THE INDEPENDENT

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THE INDEPENDENT • FRIDAY 27 JUNE 1997

business & city

FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Water industry braced for big one-off cut in bills

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

The privatised water companies were yesterday faced with the prospect of big cuts in revenues after Ian Byatt, the industry regulator, announced plans to make a substantial one-off reduction in consumers' hills in his next price review.

Mr Byatt compled the announcement with his strongest criticism so far of hig increases in dividend payouts to shareholders, which have averaged more than 17 per cent in the current round of annual results. He said: "I think they're in an unsustainable position on dividends. Their profits are largely flat and their dividends are rising. I think that is an unwise policy and it will have to stop."

Though Mr Byatt declined to estimate the scale of the oneoff cut, due in 2000, he made clear he would fullow the lead set by the gas and electricity reg-

for British Gas and National Grid. BG last week accepted cuts of 21 per cent in its revenues this year ofter taking its fight with the regulator to the Mnnopolies & Mergers Com-

The Ofwat consultation document said the adjustment to bills in April 2000 was likely to he "significant" though it had not decided whether it would be in the form of a flat rate across all companies. In addition, bills ulators in recent price regimes in the following four years

would be unlikely to rise by more than inflation and could have to drop in real terms each

Ofwat also proposed chang-ing the way the companies' huge investment programmes would be incorporated into prices. In future, the industry would only be able to raise revenues from consumers for schemes which raised water quality once the improvements had been delivered. "You don't pay for a new product until it's Mr Byatt said. Though Mr Byatt stopped

short of attacking his last price regime, which allowed hills to rise by more than inflation, he admitted it had enabled com-panies make much bigger returns than be anticipated.

He also expressed frustration at the failure of some companies to meet the investment targeis: "Companies have taken a rather shorter term position than I would have liked them to do in terms of investment pro-

grammes."

Mr Byatt conceded be would have to consider the windfall utility tax, to be revealed in next week's Budget, when setting the next price limits, though it was unclear whether this would reduce the scope, for price reductions. That will affect the capital position of the water companies... we shall novinus-ly examine what consequences

that has," he said. Water companies gave a cautinus response to the Ofwat proposals yesterday, which would not be translated into concrete figures until 1999.

The industry had lohhied against the idea of a one-off price cut during preliminary consultation, while consumer groups bad supported it. A South West Water spokesman said: "It's early days yet, but we believe we are already working under the tightest financial regime in the industry."

Analysts speculated that the

cut could be in "double figures" and some forecast a 20 per cent hit. Research by NatWest Securities suggested nne-off cuts ranging from just 2 per cent in the case of Welsh Water to more than 19 per cent for Wessex, to reduce returns in the industry to the 8 per cent level originally envisaged by Ofwat.

Utility share prices increased yesterday after reports that Gor-don Brown, the Chancellor, had hinted the windfall tax would be closer to £3bn than £5bn.

SFA may act over NatWest's missing £90m

Michael Harrison

The Serious Fraud Office and the Securities and Futures Authority were last night considering whether to launch investigations at NatWest Markets after the investment bank announced the resignations of six senior traders and directors over a deliberate cover-up to hide losses of £90m in its interest rate options business.

A spokesman for the SFO said that it had been fully briefed by NatWest and was examining whether or not a complex fraud had taken place. An announcement on whether it will initiate criminal proceedings is expected in a matter of weeks.

The SFA, the main regulatory body for the City, meanwhile said it was examining the conduct of the traders and directors involved to see whether disciplinary action was necessary. The SFA has the power to fine and suspend individuals or bar them from working again in the City altogether.

An independent report into the affair carried out by the lawyers Linklaters & Paines and the accountancy firm Coopers & Lyhrand, has been sent to the Bank of England and the SFA. The inquiry found evi-dence of "deliberate concealment and weaknesses in the operations and internal controls" in NWM's London-based interest rate options business. The mispricing went unnoticed

However, it concluded there was no evidence that clients had suffered any losses or that the concealment had been carried of Kingsley Napley, the lawyer out for personal gain as a result who defended Nick Leeson, out for personal gain as a result

of collusion with third parties. The full report is not being published for legal reasons and to protect commercial confidentiality. But NatWest said

its main findings were that:

The original losses occurred on mark and sterling interest rate swap options and options books.

☐ The losses were concealed by deliberate mispricing and.

over-valuing of options.

Unauthorised transfers of value took place between options books to conceal losses and transfer false profits. NWM did not have suffi-ciently robust procedures for checking the pricing of options. Martin Owen, the chief ex-

ecutive of NWM, resigned last week and is expected to receive a pay-off of around £1m. Yesterday Nat West said that a further six employees had left or were leaving the business. The most senior resignation is that . of Philip Wise, 48, NWM's chief administration officer, who was senior managing director of its debt capital markets during the time the mispricing was taking place. He was on a one-year contract and will receive a pay-off of £200,000-£300,000. No one else will

receive compensation. Kyriacos Papouis, the 30year old trader at the centre of the scandal, left NWM last December and has since resigned from his new employer Bear Sterns. He is at home in his north London house and is being advised by Stephen Pollard

the Barings rogue trader.

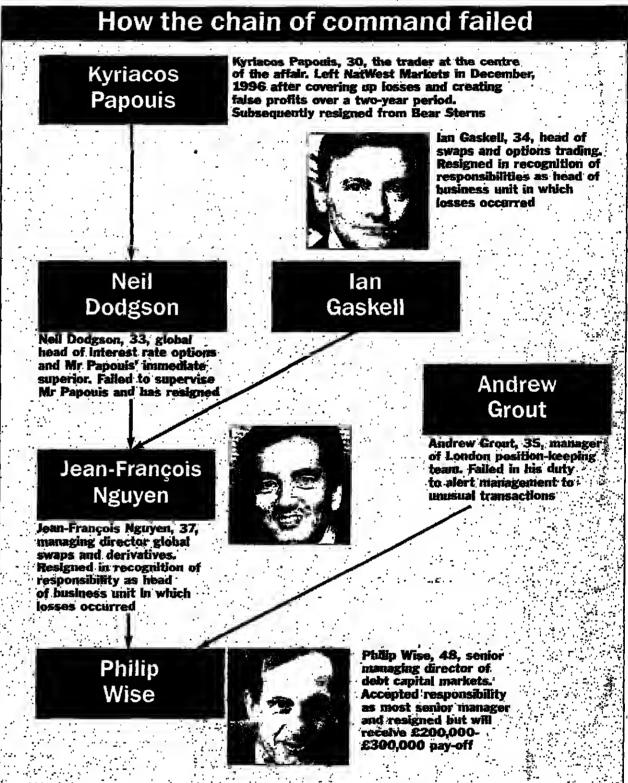
The other employees who have accepted responsibility because of their positions within the division and resigned are Neil Dodgson, global head of interest rate options and Mr Papouis' immediate boss; Jean François Nguyen, managing director global swaps and derivatives; lan Gaskell, head of swaps and options trading; and Andrew Grout, manager of the London position keeping team, a back office member of staff whose job it was to reconcile trades and keep track of unusual trading positions. Christophe Lanson, head of risk rate management, was not found to be responsible for any losses or false profits but is leaving NWM

It is thought highly likely that the SFA will launch formal proceedings against some or all of those involved, given the language used in the report and the reference to deliberate concealment and false adjustments to options books.

But it is less clear whether the SFO will take action since no evidence of personal gain or loss to clients has been found. Mr. Papouis has co-operated with the Linklaters/Coopers inquiry and is understood to have told investigators that he did not deal in sterling options, where some of the losses occurred.

NatWest said it refused to pay compensation to those who were leaving, other than Mr Wise.

Comment, page 23



Railtrack bows to demands to change its operating licence

Andrew Yates

Railtrack has made an embarrassing climbdown and agreed to change its operating licence after an increasingly bitter row with the rail regulator. John Swift, over its £16on, 10-year investment programme came to a head yesterday.

Railtrack has agreed to give the rail regulator extra powers to force it to deliver on its spending commitments after Mr Swift threatened to take the maner to the Monopolies & Mergers Commission.

The regulator was determined to make Railtrack change its operating licence and refused to accept any compromises. Up to now Railtrack has stubbornly objected to the demands, claiming they would lead to "more bureaucracy, second guessing of decisions and a loss of flexibility". But after a no-nonsense meeting with Mr

Swift, Sir Robert Horton, Railtrack's chairman, bas unconditionally agreed to the rail regulator's demands.

A joint statement from Railtrack and the rail regulator stated: "Railtrack confirmed its agreement to work with the regulator to produce a mutualagreed licence amendment which would give effect to its public accountability as the owner of the nation's railway infrastructure.

Railtrack's investment programme will be regularly mon-itored by Mr Swift and if it underspends the regulator will have powers to levy fines or even strip Railtrack of its licence. The two sides are due to meet again early next week to thrash out the final details of the

The rail regulator became concerned that Railtrack would not meet its investment targets

Source: FT Information

derspending no its £1 bn station refurbishment program. Mr Swift wanted to increase its powers to make sure the shortfall was addressed. The rail regulator would not take no for an answer and Railtrack finally realised that," said one indus-

try analyst yesterday. Railtrack's opposition to the changes went right to the wire. Only on Monday a Railtrack spokesman said: "We have no intention of changing our position and changing our operat-ing licence." But the threat of a long, drawn-out, and potentially damaging MMC enquiry proved too much.

The Labour Government is also believed to have put pressure on Railtrack to meet the rail regulator's demands. John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, recently mct Sir Robert to discuss his concerns over its investment shortfall and is de-

Railtrack delivers on its promises. He told delegates at a conference for the train workers' union, Aslef, in Torquay last Fri-day that the regulation of the ways needed to be tightened.

At the conference, Mr Prescott said: "Railtrack is seemingly rejecting a voluntary improvement in its contract to give the regulator tighter powers with respect to providng investment. I would emphasise that unless a satisfactory agreement is reached then the whole question of how Railtrack is regulated will be opened up once more."

If Railtrack had refused to capitulate over the planned changes to its licence then the Government was likely to step in and force Railtrack to act. Neither the rail regulator nor Railtrack would comment further on the agreement.

Abbey National buys Cater Allen for £191m

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Abbey National yesterday snapped up one of the City's few remaining discount houses when t made a £191m agreed offer for Cater Allen. With a history gong back 180 years, Cater Allca is best-known for its wholesale money-market husiness though it has developed other interests n offshore deposits.

Abbey National said the deal would help fulfil its aim of diversifying its profits stream away from its traditional mortgage and savings activities.

Cater Allen's chairman, James Barclay, said that al-though the offer had been welcomed and recommended by the board, "it is also sad news; sad that after 180 years the company is to lose its independence". Abbey National is offering

580p for every ordinary Cater Allen share. This represents a

Yesterlay Bay's clig Year Ago

17.71 +0.06 18.22 RPI

31 per cent premium to the closing price on 4 June, the day before Cater Allen announced it had received an approach that

may lead to an offer. Peter Birch, Abbey National's chief executive, said: "The acquisition offers a unique opportunity to increase Ahbey National's strategically important growth market which builds upon our existing treasury and offshore business Abbey has been keen to di-

versify into these areas. Last year 40 per cent of its profits were earned from non-traditional businesses. The bank intends to increase this figure to 50 per cent by the end of the decade. Abhey's treasury and off-

sbore businesses last year contributed more than 20 per cent of the group's pre-tax profits.
"Abbey National's ambitions in these areas would be difficult to achieve organically," Mr Birch said

Cater Allen reported its full-year results yesterday, showing profits of £17.1m compared to £14.6m the previous year. The dividend was held at 30p.

Cater has its origins as a discount bnuse dealing with the Bank of England and is still active in its traditional moneymarket activities. But, in common with other houses, it has found it difficult to turn a profit in these areas and has sold its futures trading operations.

Instead it has diversified into offshore banking with profitable operations in Jersey and the Isle of Man. Abbey National has two similar operations in Gibraltar and Hong Kong. Another Cater business which may have attracted Abbey is its ownership of City Deal, a private client stockhroker. A few months ago it added Glasgow-based stockbroker Aitken Campbell.

Abbey National shares closed 1.5p lower at 628.5p.

Asda puts pressure on rivals as food sales soar

Sameena Ahmad

Asda yesterday illustrated the increasing dominance of the UK's big four supermarkets by announcing that its sales were growing at twice the average rate in the UK food sales sector. Britain's third biggest supermarket behind Tesco and Sainsbury with 11 per cent of the market, became the latest of the big four to report a rise in market share, increasing fears that second-tier players such as Kwik Save and Somerfield were being squeezed out.

Andrew Fowler, an analyst at UBS, said: "The superstore is becoming increasingly powerful.

Too many people think the issue is about how much share Tesco or Sainsbury or Asda has. But the real story is what happens to number five and six in line as the market consolidates.

Figures by AGB, the market research group, show that the top four supermarkets including Safeway had 58.3 per cent of the food sales market in April this year compared to 55.6 per cent at the same time in 1996.

Archie Norman, chairman of Asda and the recently elected Conservative MP for Tunhridge Wells, said yesterday that the group was growing sales faster than any of its rivals "The business is continuing to perform on track and on schedule. The pace of change is as great as it has ever been."

Asda's like-for-like sales grew at 9.2 per cent in the year to the end of May compared to 7.5 per cent at Tesco and 3.2 per cent at Asda.

Mr Norman said that Asda had no plans for diversification into areas like financial services. We are not investing in loyalty cards, home delivery, bank-ing in Ireland. We are only doing one thing. We want to be

shopkeepers."
Allan Leighton, chief executive, said that the costs of developing a loyalty card, which the company was trialling in 40 of its 213 stores, and financial services so far outweighed the bencfits: "Our customers are more interested in pounds today than points tomorrow. We bave the technology to launch a loyalty card. But the benefits are limited." Mr Norman said Asda had no

plans to expand its sales of televisions and videos as Tesco was planning to do: "We have been pulling out of electrical goods. We bupe Tesco goes into the lot - televisions, fridges and washing machines."

However, Mr Norman hinted that with the appointment of lan Robinson, chief executive of Scottish Power, as a nonexecutive director, Asda would consider selling electricity and organising customer billing. "We are still looking at it," Mr Norman said. He added that the group wanted to increase its healthcare services and was talking about developing in-store doctor's surgerics, as

Comment, page 23 after it became clear earlier this Sainsbury has donc. INTEREST RATES BPB speeds up waste STOCK MARKETS paper disposal plans

Bond Yields * Long Board (%) Near Ago Ney's change Change(O) 1996/97 High 1998/97 Len Youl(O)

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Magnus Grimond operations, but BPB was unable

BPB, Europe's biggest plaster-

board group, is speeding up rationalisation plans for its waste paper husiness after it slumped mto a £3m loss last year.

The group said another of its plants was "under review" following the announcement recently that the Chambers paper operation outside Nottingham was to close.

The group is also still seeking buyers for a mill in Holland. There will be redundancies among the 2,400-strong workforce involved in paperboard

to say how many.
Jean-Pierre Cuny, chief executive, blamed the strength

of the pound for the acceleration of the plans, which came after a £10m swing into loss at the recycled paper operations. The effect of falling waste pa-

per prices was exacerbated by sterling, he said. The turnround was almost exactly offset by a move to average exchange rates at BPB. which yesterday reported a rise

in pre-tax profits from £161m to £189m for the year to March. Investment column, page 25

Profits up 25 per cent at Fleming SIB backs Liddell on

Magnus Grimond

Robert Fleming, one the City's few remaining family-controlled investment businesses, yesterday sounded a defiantly independent note as it announced a 25 per

cent rise in profits for last year. William Garrett, chicf executive, said: "Independence is the watchword around here. Most of our successful rivals around the world are independent, particularly the US investment

some of the bank's nearest competitors, he said.

There have been suggestions the family, which controls around a third of the shares, would like to sell. But Mr Garrett said: "The family's position is that they like things as they are."

There were no plans to sell out to a higger group as other City merchant banks had done, including Kleinwort Benson,

Bank Corporation, Mr Garrett said. He was speaking as Fleming announced a bounce-back in pre-tax profits to £158m for the year to March, up from the group was found to have di-£134m the previous year, hut not quite matching the £172m reported in 1995. A 14 per cent rise in the dividend takes

it to 25p a share for the year. The results would have been a record, but for the scandal-hit which was taken over by Dres- Jardine Fleming fund manage-

Morgan Stanley. Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch were Warburg, swallowed up by Swiss Kong. Fleming saw its share of profits slump from £50.5m to £37.7m after JF was forced to pay out £12.4m to compensate investors after a fund manager at verted deals for his own account.

The business had lost some customers, with funds under management dipping to just uoder \$20bn (£12hn) from a peak of around \$22bn, but clients were coming back, Mr

John Willcock

The Securities and Investments Board yesterday threw its weight behind Economic Secretary Helen Liddell's "name and shame" attack on companies which are dragging their feet over pensions mis-selling. The SIB warned that companies which were slow to deal with claims would be dealt with "robustly"

Introducing the SIB's annual report for 1996/97, Sir Andrew Large, chairman, also welcomed the planned merger of the Bank of England's supervisory operation with three other regulators and the SIB as an "exciting opportunity".

Sir Andrew, who retires at the end of July, said the redesign of the system to regulate financial business would "benefit customers and the industry and that will provide continuing and justified confidence in the UK as a global financial services centre".

The report said the agency had been involved to an unprecedented trans-national enquiry into the Hamanaka copper scandal over the past year. It had also investigated more allegations of unautho-

pensions mis-selling

The creatinn of a "super SIB" has been an important plank of New Labour policy, fuelled by several high-profile hanking collapses such as BCCl and Barings, which his the Bank of England's reputation for supervision. The move to take banking regulation away from the Bank has created tension between the Government and the Bank.

rised investment husiness than

ever before.

In the report Sir Andrew criticised the two-tier system of Self Regulatory Authorities (SROs) introduced in the 1980s as flawed. He said the system framed by the Financial Services Act 1986 to protect individual

to duplication, inefficiency and

The chairman pointed to delays to the pensions review, caused by the requirement for each of the front-line regulators separately to consult their members on the SIB's guidance.

Sir Andrew also pointed to difficulties in following up the consequences of major management failures, such as Barings and Morgan Grenfell, due to the need to co-ordinate the policies and actions of three or more independent regulatory

and supervisory organisations. However, Sir Andrew said that, in spite of the inefficiencies caused by the two-tier system. over the past five years the regulators had secured higher standards in many areas. These included more effective regulation of firms by front-line SROs such as Imro and the SFA.

The past few years had seen

consumers and investors had led increasing levels of training and competence in the UK's financial services industry, and the extension of individual reg-

istration for financial advisers. The pensions mis-selling scandal figured highly in the report. Andrew Winckler, the SIB's chief executive, warned: "The industry now has no excuses for further delay. We will expect any failure to meet targets for completion of case reviews to be dealt with robustly through the disci-

plinary process."
Turning to SIB's enforcement activities, the report said SIB was involved in "a major investigation of great scope and complexity into the conduct of certain Financial Services Act regulated investment firms in world copper markets over recent years. This investigation continues and involves close liaison with criminal and regulatory agencies in Japan, the USA, the UK and elsewhere."

Errors hit First Choice for £8.6m

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

First Choice Holidays, Britain's third-largest tour operator, re-vealed yesterday that it had taken an £8.6m exceptional charge to cover accounting errors dating back over a two-year period. The charge increased the company's first-half operating loss to £33.1m compared with

£25.7m the previous year. The company said that fol-

lowing a review of its financial systems, the financial control function had been re-organised and strengthened with new personnel recruited.

First Choice, which ousted its chief executive Francis Baron last November following a breakdown in boardroom relations, is developing a new business plan under the new chief executive, Peter Long.

A full review of operating expenses is being undertaken and

the company said the benefits mer compared to last year as at would be seen from next year. It was now taking a lower-risk approach to the package holiday business.

Ian Clubh, First Choice's deputy chairman, said the windfall share gains from Halifax and Alliance & Leicester building society conversions had yet to filter through to the holiday market.

Reporting a 6 per cent increase in bookings for this sum-

21 June, the company said the biggest growth had been in long-haul holidays. In the Mediterranean, holidays to Turkey had been growing fast. After cutting its full-year div-

idend by a quarter in December, the half-year payout is a third lower than last year at 0.9p Pre-tax losses were £30.9m in

the six months to 30 April against £23.4m previously.

IN BRIEF

Finance director quits GrandMet

Gerald Corbett, finance director of Grand Metropolitan, is to leave the company with a pay-off of almost £600,000. His departure had been expected after no suitable role had been found for him at GMG Brands, the new company that will be formed from the proposed £23hn merger between GrandMct and Guinness. Mr Corbett was paid a salary of £285,000 last year and was on a two-

However, the timing of his departure surprised some in the City who said that if the deal was blocked, GrandMet would find itself without a finance director. Mr Corbett lost out to Guinness's Philip Yea in the battle for the finance director position at GMG Brands. He was offered the post of strategy director but turned it down. The company said he had since received "several offers".

Profits slip at Lehman Brothers

Confirming a downward blip last spring in Wall Street profits, Lehman Brothers revealed that its second quarter earnings this year slipped from first quarter levels. Lehman, which in recent weeks has been widely seen as a takeover target, said its net earnings for the quarter totalled \$121m (£73m), down from \$144m in the first quarter. Even so, the second quarter earnings compared favourably with the same quarter last year, when they came

"Overall, the first half of 1997 was a very good one for the firm," commented Richard Fuld. Lehman's chairman and chief executive. "Despite an extremely difficult trading and underwriting environment in March and April, the second quarter carnings reflect continued progress in building on Lehman Brothers' position as a leading global investment bank."

Rhône deal creates global drugs business

Rhone Pouleoc, the French chemicals group which owns Fisons. is huying in the 32 per cent it does not already own of Rhône Poulenc Rorer, the Franco-American drug company, for Fr25hn (£2.6hn). The move creates yet another global life sciences husiness in an industry characterised by large scale consolidation. Deals seen in the drugs industry over the last five years include the takeover of Wellcome by Glaxo, the spin-off of Zeneca from ICI and the mergers of Pharmacia and Upjohn and Swiss groups Sandoz and Ciba. Rhone Poulenc plans to spin off its chemicals, fibres and polymers side in preparation for a stock market flotation.

MAM and Yorkshire call a truce

Mcreury Asset Management and Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television have called a truce in their bitter war of words over Granada Group's hid for the television company. MAM, one of Yorkshire's higgest institutional shareholders, has been vocal in its disappointment at Granada's £11.75 a share offer. MAM vestorday called Yorkshire, and both companies agreed to refrain from public comment about the issue.

Thames and BBC sell Flextech shares

Pearson's Thames Television subsidiary sold 4 million shares in Flextech, the cable and satellite programmer, at 605p each. BBC Worldwide Investments dispensed with 3.8 million shares at the same price. Flexteeh said it had requested the sale because of "considerable demand" from institutions in the UK and overseas. At the same time, the company's chairman, Adam Singer, bought 50,000 shares at 605p. Pearson and the BBC continue to hold 4.8 million and 1.6 million Flextech shares respectively.

Dai-Ichi executives indicted over payoffs

Four former executives of Dai-Iehi Kangyo Bank have been indicted for making illegal payoffs. Tokyo prosecutors said that two former Dai-Ichi Kangyo executives and two other former directors of the bank made illegal payments of more than 11.7 billion yen (£02m) to an alleged corporate racketeer through an affiliated finance company.

US jobless claims down

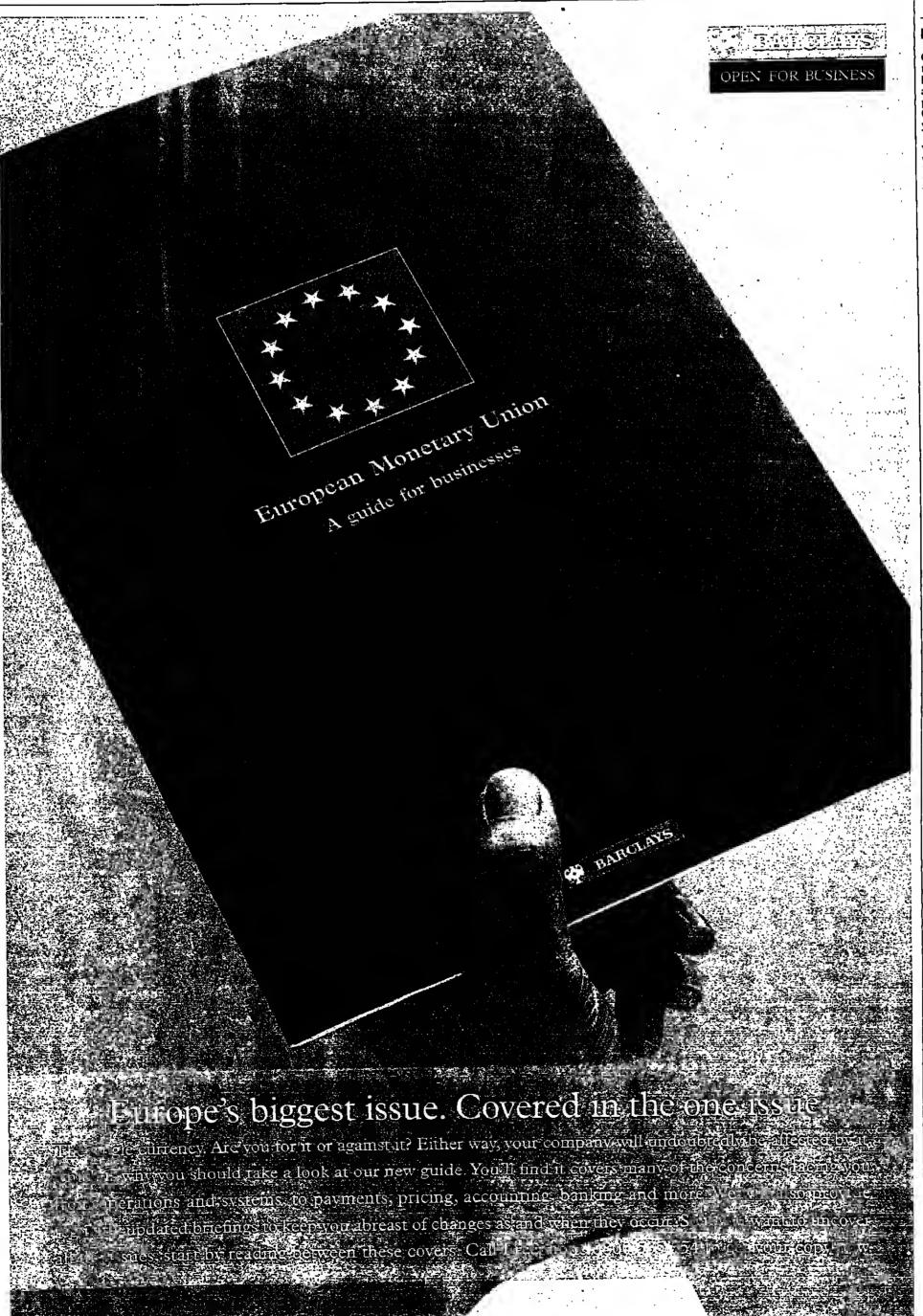
The number of new jobless claims in the US fell to 332,000 last week, down from 346,000 the previous week. But the four-weekly average reached its highest level for six months, climbing to 338,750 due to increases in the previous weeks. The latest state level figures showed declines mainly in the south, but also in California and New York.

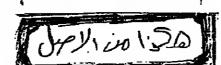
Glaxo sells US production unit

Glaxo Welleome's US subsidiary has agreed to sell its production facility in Greenville to Catalytica Pharmaceuticals for £150m. Glaxo said that the proceeds from the sale would be used to reduce group borrowings, and would help it achieve planned cost

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
lsda (F)	7 Obn (6 Obn)	405.2m (S11.5m)	10 66p (7 96p)	2.24p
Berkeley Group (F)	485m (334m)	75.08m (43.38m)	51 4p (34 8p)	9.5p
SPE (F)	1 39bn (1 42bn)	189.)m (161 4m)	25 Op (20.4p)	10.3p (9.7p)
Christies Group (F)	20 3m (16 9m)	707,000 (60 000)	2.57p (0 25p)	1.0p ·
Jeeden (1)	5 Om (3 6m)	312,000 (267,000)	0 88p)1.10p)	0.9p (0 1p)
Litt lesurance (F)	- i-)	15 7m (2 2m)	12 6p (1 77p)	10.78p (2.7p)
Jebenham Tewann (F)	66.16m (39.56m)	4 89m (2.28m)	6 19p (2 78p)	2.4p (1.5p)
kst Chaice Holidays (I)	373 7m (386 2m)	22.8m (-23.4m)	9 40 (7 5p)	0.9p (1.4p)
itoess First (i)	2.4m (1.7m)	615,000 (313,000)	7 48p (1 30p)	ph .
SUS (F)	2 Bbn (2 70n)	570 6m (581 1m)	37 6p (38 4p)	18.0p (16 5p)
lardys & Haoson (1)	17 1m (16 3m)	4 01m)3 82m)	10 81p (10,23p)	
lenes & Shipman (F)	20 4m (19 4m)	1.66m (1.73m)	5 7p (6 2p)	1.5p (0.75p)
Cowiff Systems (F)	41 3m (35 2m)	7 43m (6 06m)	40 5p (33 7p)	9.6p (8 0p)
Alddlesex Holdlags (F)	(77.9m (39.2m)	8 07m (5 19m)	0 62p (0 61p)	0 10p (0 77p)
ML Haldings (F)	101.7m (110.8m)	8 13m (-11 3m)	3.30 (-7.50)	1.60
Norcres (F)	234.6m (285.5m)	55.2m (13.7m)	5 Sp (2:3p)	2.0p (nil)
Aegalian Properties (F)	42.9m (16 Bm)	4.02m (1.68m)	5.44p (1 38p)	1.0p (0.5p)
Syllone (F)	76 4m (65.2m)	5.66m (4.31m)	14 96p (12 88p)	6.40 (5.720)
Karelor (F)	- ⊢,	582 000 (-86,000)	0 85p (-0.29p)	nii
(F) - Anal (I) - Intenm	(N) - New month	5		
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COMMENT

The big water and

sewerage businesses hoodwinked Mr Byatt during his last price review in 1995, producing a regime which allowed bills to rise well above inflation and enabled companies to pay out huge amounts of cash

to shareholders'

Water regulator turns off the dividend tap

The trickle-down effect, as applied to utility regulation, looks like having a particulary nasty impact un the water industry even though the City did not quite seem to take it on board yesterday.

Where Clare Spottiswoode of Ofgas and Stephen Littlechild at Offer have already gone, Ian Byatt at Ofwat has decided to follow. Yesterday he duely spett out what the water companies have seen coming for months which is why they have been splashing out cash on dividends with an abandon that borders on desperation. The party is

The hig water and sewerage husinesses hoodwinked Mr Byatt during his last price review in 1995, producing a regime which allowed hills to rise well above inflation and enabled companies to pay out huge amounts of cash to shareholders. Between 1991 and 1995 the real return in the water industry never fell below 12 per cent. Even last year it was 11.45 per cent, against Ofwat's target of 6-8 per cent. The latest round of dividend payouts has averaged more than 17 per cent. And all this in what Mr Byatt emphasised yesterday was a "low risk" industry.

The industry can kick and scream as much as it likes - and the path to the MMC is littered with corpses - hut it now faces double figure price cuts from 2000 and stiff price, curhs in the years that follow. This is worse than anything the companies had predicted and enough to slash their profits by perhaps as much as 20 per cent. In short, Mr Byatt is going to "do a Spottiswoode," replicating the attack on British Gas which so publically backfired on the company last week.

But the outcome for water could be worse than in gas, or the electricity grid. In the latter cases the regulators argued today's consumers were paying through the nose for tomorrow's investment programmes which most likely would cost a lot less. Yet the water industry now faces a continued massive investment commitment and price cuts

Should the companies try to make the most of the present tenient regime by continuing the dividend party, they will be clobbered harder in the next one. If the regulator gets his way - and he undouhtedly will with strong policital support - then in three years' time the industry is going to have quite a hangover.

Railtrack escapes head-on collision

Meanwhile in another part of the furest the Fat Controller was making up with the rail regulator. Sir Bob Horton is not best known for flinehing from a fight. But even he can see that when a runaway train is coming down the track the sensible thing to do is jump aside and then get un board

climbdown the enemies of rail privatisation would like to depict it as. On the other hand, Railtrack has been left in no doubt who Mr

Swift thinks should he in the driving seat. To recap, Mr Swift had threatened to pack Railtrack off to the Monopolies Commission unless it agreed to amendments in its licence allowing the regulator to set mandatory targets for meeting its 10-year £16hn investment programme.

Sir Bob replied, not unreasonably, that it was Railtrack management and not the regulator who were paid to exercise their commercial judgment as to what investment was needed and where. With a regulator breathing down its neck, it might indeed spend the sums allocated annually but it would not necessarily be good investment. Why spend £100 when you can get the job done for £80?

The solution the two sides bave come up allows each to claim a small victory, even though the strangulated prose of their joint statement is hardly an aid to comprehension. Railtrack has agreed that if it does not deliver on its investment programme then the regulatur can penalise it. How well or hadly it is performing will not be measured in terms of "mput" - the amount invested - but by what sort of output it delivers - by which they mean trains that run on time and as advertised.

again when it has slowed down.

The agreement Railtrack reached yesterday with Juhn Swift OC is not the total by amending Railtrack's licence he will not be imposing another layer of bureaucracy or large again when it has slowed down.

In return, the regulator has agreed that by amending Railtrack's licence he will not be imposing another layer of bureaucracy or large again.

putting himself in a position to second guess its judgement. The practical effect on Railtrack will be to toughen its investment programme - not just over the remaining four years of the current price control but over a 10-year period. That means more pressure oo shareholder returns. It could have gone to the MMC to argue the point. But frankly with the lesson of British Gas still fresh in the memory, that would have been about as sane as standing in the path of an

NatWest's troubles are not over yet

NatWest Group will be hoping it has finally drawn a line over a truly horrible period in its affairs with its statement yesterday detailing what action is being taken over the options mispricing scandal. But having had its weaknesses so embarrassingly exposed first by the options fiasco, then the profits warning, and finally the failed merger talks with Abbey National, it may not be that easy.

The three page statement released yes-terday was hardly the fulsome "independent report" or mea culpa on the affair we had been led to believe it might be. If this sets the tone for dealing with City scandals, what hope is there that Hambros will publish the results of the Norton Rose inquiry into the CWS affair? Not much seems to be the good legal and commercial reasons for not publishing the findings in full. With regula-tors pushing full steam ahead with disciplinary action and the possibility of criminal proceedings. Nat West has plainly been con-

strained in what it could say.

Nor does it want to make itself a laughing stock by disclosing in all its embarrassing detail the full story of how Kyriacos Papouis duped his superiors.

All the same, by leaving so many questions unanswered, NatWest is falling a long way short of offering the reassurance customers and shareholders require that all is now fine on the ranch.

The rotten apple and the people who controlled him have been removed, systems of control have been strengthened, and new top management has been installed. But it's clearly going to take some while to eradicate the culture of disregard that allowed this to

As for NatWest Group more generally, the underlying structural problem remains much the same. Nat West Markets is not big. strong or cohesive enough to play with the big boys, nor has NatWest's British retail banking operation been able to reinvent

itself in the same way as Lloyds and Barclays In both market places, investment banking and retail banking. NatWest is in dan-ger of being marginalised. The trials and tribulations of NatWest are by no means over yet.

Debonair float to raise £25m for expansion

Andrew Yates

Three main sharebolders in Debonair, including the chairman and chief executive, Franco Mancassola, stand to make a profit of more than £12m when the cut-price airline floats on the fledgling European stock market, Easdag, next month. Besides Mr Mancassola, Dr Wayne Stern, a director, and Anthony Silverman, a shareholder, stand to make a profit of more than £4m each.

Debonair's 500 private shareholders can also expect a windfall from the flotation, which will value the group at up to £110m. It is raising up to £25m, selling 5 million shares priced at between 400p and 500p each.

planes last year. Since then it has expanded rapidly and oow carries 60,000 passengers a month.

Debonair only started flying

From its UK base at Luton airport it flies to Barcelona, Copenhagen, Dusseldorf, Mad-

rid, Munich and Rome. It will use the £25m to increase the frequency of its services and to fly to more destinations. "We will add new routes, buy new planes and keep a war chest for a rainy day. There is no such thing as an underfunded airline," said

Mr Mancassola.

As part of the expansion plan, Debonair is going to in-crease its fleet from six to 10 aircraft within the next 12 months. It hopes to introduce flights to Scandinavia and southero Eu-

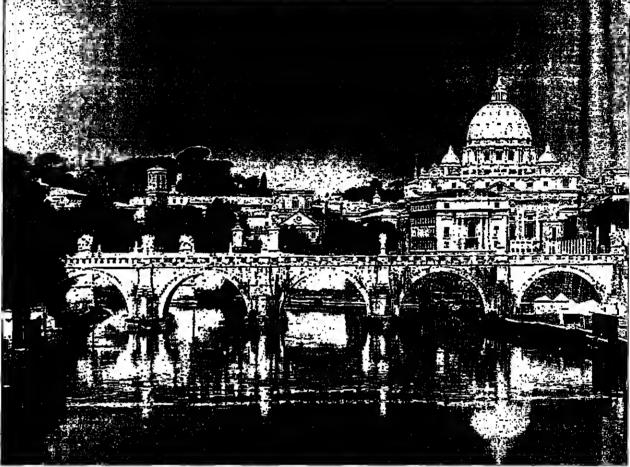
Debonair lost £15m last year, a result of developing its network, but it hopes to make a profit by 1999. Mr Mancassola plans to take advantage of the growing deregulation of the European airline industry which bas seen the emergence of several cheap airlines competing with established carriers. It is following in the footsteps

of the Irish no-frills carrier, Ryanair, which has also an-

nounced flotation plans, But Mr Mancassola believes Debonair is different from other cheap carriers, "We have much more generous leg room, we give free drinks and we are installing video-on-demand units, unlike other airlines I could mention," be said.

Mr Mancassola previously worked for Continental, helping the US airline to start up international airline links. Eventually he decided to set up his own airline, Discovery Air-Honolulu in Hawaii. When he sold that business seven years ago Mr Mancassola made, in his own words, "a decent profit". But the sale meant be was prohibited from setting up anoth-er American airline. That was when he decided to move back to Europe.

"I decided that I did not want to play tennis of golf for the rest of my life and moved back to Europe instead," he



Across the Tiber: Debonair flies to six destinations, including Rome, but the chairman end chief executive, Franco Mancassola, hopes to add new routes and buy more planes after the company floats on Easdag

said. With the help of Mr Silverman, who runs a US security business, he raised £14.5m to fund Debonair's expansion. Mr Maneassola plans to meet

institutions over the next month to whip up support for the deal. The shares are likely to be listed on Easdaq at the end of

Debonair's decision to float on Easdaq will be big boost to the market which has failed to spark the imagination of com-

has only 10 members at present. "We wanted to join a European market because we are a European company," said Mr panies and investors alike and Mancassola.

catalogue of woes **Andrew Yates** Great Universal Stores, th

GUS plan

to end

catalogue retailer, plans a assault on the direct mail orde market in an attempt to revers the flagging fortunes of it bome shopping division. Lord Wolfson of Sunning

dale, chairman, also plans t offer GUS customers persona loans and insurance products i a push to increase the size of it financial services division.

"We are looking at new fi nancial services products. W could give loans of £3,000 to bu a car for example. Insurance mortgages and PEPs are also possibility," said Lord Woll

son yesterday. GUS is launching four new catalogues this autumn which will be distributed directly to customers' bomes. The titles in clude a Disney catalogue sell ing characterised merchandis and another selling GUS's own Thomas Burberry clothing line A new sporty clothing range and a catalogue for the more mature customer will also be sent out The move is designed to capture a chunk of the direct mail mar ket from competitors such a Next and N Brown. The direc mail market has been growing much faster than GUS' tradi tional mail order husiness wbich sells catalogue item

through a network of agents. The news came as GUS an nounced its first fall in annua profits for almost 50 years. Pre tax profits fell 2 per cent to £571m. The main culprit was the home shopping division which had a disastrous year, with profits falling 17 per cent to £124m Lord Wolfson likens GUS's core mail order business to a supertanker that has gone of course. "We spent too much money on reducing costs rather than improve service. We are bopeful we can turn this large supertanker around but that will not happen overnight."he said yesterday.

Millions lost in foul-up by Revenue

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Penny pinching on new computer systems by the Inland Revenue has cost the government "many millions" of pounds in lost tax revenues, according to a damning report to be published today by the National Audit Office. It also revealed that a hinge

number of irregularities in the payas you earn (PAYE) system, which collected £105bn of tax in 1995-96, were uncovered during checks by Revenue investigators. Irregularities were nncovered in more than 76 per cent of the the 54,156 employers whose tax assessments were reviewed and brought £290m into government coffers in the form of unpaid tax, national insurance contributions and interest penalties.

The NAO reserved its strongest criticism for the Inland Revenue's decision in the early 1990s not to spend £20,000 on a "simple" national database of employers. As a result of the decision local compliance units, which check companies' tax as-sessments, have been hampered by unnecessary duplication of information.

The report found experiments by the Revenue in building local versions of the latabase had raised the yield of investigators by 219 per cent in One case and 22 per cent in another. Had yields gone up by just I per cent across the UK it would have raised £2.5m in additional taxes. The new compaters in the trials had slashed the amount of time wasted by Revenue staff in finding pro-

ductive cases to review. Yet instead of building a

temporary national system for some £20,000, the Revenue waited to construct a much wider compliance computer system, at a cost of £6.9m, which is not due to start work until April 1998. Worse still, according to the NAO, the Revenue "felt unable to esti-mate" how much tax had been lost because of the delay.

Though the compliance teams recovered £6 in unpaid tax for every £1 spent by the Revenue last year, the NAO also found widespread dis-crepancies between regions and occupations. The proportion of employers visited varied between different trades, though in many cases the level of irregularities uncovered was the

Just 25 per cent of employers in the construction industry were reviewed in 1995-96, though 80 per cent of the spot checks uncovered noo-compliance with PAYE rules. In contrast 62 per cent of mechanical engineering employers' assessments had heen reviewed. though they uncovered virtually the same proportion of irregularities. On average each review carried out recovered £4,300 in unpaid taxes.

Surprisingly, the NAO found fish and chip shops beat accountants as the most law abid-ing occupations, though irregularities were still discovered in 54 per cent of reviews. The building industry

emerged with its reputation as the biggest tax dodger intact. The worst offenders were equipment hire businesses. where 89 per cent of checks found irregularities, followed by civil engineering contractors and draughtsmen.

Gates in way when Ellison consults Oracle

DAVID USBORNE

When Larry Ellison of Oracle asks the mirror oo the wall who is the richest and most power-ful of them all, he is still hearing "Bill Gates" and it drives him nuts. Now he is trying a variation: "Who is the most gener-

The famously combative Mr Ellison might have hoped that, challenged with that question, the mirror by now would be responding with his name. On fuesday, after all, he announced

10 help put Network Computers, or NCs, on the desks of school pupils all across Amer-

As it bappens, however, Mr Ellison's chagrin must be stronger than ever. It seems that between him and Mr Gates another kind of rivalry has broken out: who, between them, can win the race to claim the title as the Andrew Carnegie of the late 20th century?

Split Andersen facing

showdown in New York

And once again, Mr Ellison is finding himself eclipsed by the miracle man from Microsoft. Also this week - in fact just 24 plans to spend \$100m (£60m) hours before the Ellison an- to promote the NC, a stripped-

nouncement - Mr Gates went public with a pledge of \$200m to be spent equipping schools and libraries with personal computers. Microsoft itself will provide an additional \$200m in

software to libraries. Microsoft insists that its plan had been in the works for at least 18 months and that its unveiling just hours before Mr Ellison's gesture was nothing more than an "unbelievable coincidence".

At Oracle, bowever, suspicion runs deep. The company is already in a battle with Microsoft

down appliance that draws both men promise to open a power from a network, in place of PCs that mostly run oo Microsoft software. Officials believe that they were deliberately

sandbagged by Microsoft. Mr Ellison himself said tartly on Tuesday: "It took Microsoft one year to respond to the Internet, six months to respond to the network computer and only six hours to respond to our donation". Oracle's president, Raymond Lane, described the Microsoft move as "pretty

Regardless of what is driving them, the donations made by

new chapter in American philanthropy. For some years already, eyes have been fixed on Mr Gates in particular, whose personal worth on paper is some \$18bn, for some sign of interest in giving instead of board-

The multi-hillion-earning hitech industry has long heen seen as laggardly in charity work. CNN mogul Ted Turner said last year. "These new super-rich won't loosen their wads because they're afraid they'll reduce their net worth and and go down the list."

Cathy Newman

Warning hits **Intrum shares**

Roger Trapp

The board of the international accounting and consulting firm Andersen Worldwide meets today in an effort to resolve the leadership crisis stemming from the partners twice rejecting its nomination for chief executive.

The crunch meeting in New York follows the failure earlier this week of George Shaheen, head of the worldwide Andersen Consulting husiness, to secure the two-thirds majority necessary to succeed Larry Weinhach, who stands down as head of the Chicago-based firm later this year. The blow comes just weeks after the 2,700 partners turned down the board's recommendation of Jim Wadia, head of the UK operation of the Arthur Andersen accountancy firm.

Since the 27-strong board drawn from all parts of the organisation has used up both its candidates, nobody is willing to predict the outcome of a gathering scheduled to run into tomorrow. "We're in uncharted waters," one insider said.

Trying to persuade Mr Weinbach, an architect of the original split, to stay on is one option. But it is thought that Mr Weinbach, who is reportedly keen to pursue other interests outside the firm after eight years at the top, will take some convincing. The firm is seeking to play

down suggestions that the impasse results from tensions between the two arms of the organisation by pointing out that both men had secured simple majorities - though not the required "super majority" - in the polls.

However, some outsiders believe the problems are connected to a lengthy review of the future organisation of the firm, which employs more than 100,000 people around the world and last year achieved revenues of \$9.5bn (£5.7bn), almost exactly equally split between the

At a meeting in Paris earlier this year, the partners voted overwbelmingly against a more complete split between the accountancy firm and the con-

sulting operation, which was hived off in 1989. But it is known that some in the firm are irritated that the consulting arm, which has become associated with large-scale information technology and outsourcing projects, increasingly finds itself competing for business against consultants from the accoun-

Other observers, though, believe the troubles may be more territorial and stem from partners in the United States earnme more than their colleagues elsewhere in the world.

Either way, the long-running and well-publicised troubles leave the normally coolly efficient Andersen open to accusations that it cannot be taken seriously as a business adviser if it cannot even choose its own chief executive.

One insider admitted that the saga was bound to be closely followed by other big six accountancy firms that have long envied Andersen's apparent effortless ability to grow strongly even at times of recession, but was not concerning clients.



head of the UK operation

A spokesman for another

leading firm of accountants and consultants said that the firm was paying the price for adopting a simple form of democracy. Mr Weinbach believes that though an election involving such a large and spread-out electorate is "a difficult and demanding process", it makes a new chief executive assured of the support of the other partners.

At most other partnerships, senior partners simply emerge from gatherings of senior managers. Hitherto, it has been inconceivable that partners in a successful professional services firm would reject the recommendation of the management on such an important issue once, let alone rwice.

The share price of Intrum

Justitia, the largest debt collection husiness in Europe, plunged by almost 27 per cent vesterday after the company issued a profits warning. Intrum's shares dropped

from 125.5p to 92p at the close of trading, after the company said its first balf profits would come in at around two-thirds of last year's level of £8.2m, Full year profit would also be below expectations, the company said.

The company said that the UK's emergence from the recession had reduced the opportunities available to debt collectors. In Intrum's French and German operations, the sluggish economy bad caused problems. The strength of sterling also contributed to the

difficulties. Pressures on trading would be eased if the Government introduced legislation to allow creditors a statutory right to interest on debt, the company added. John Langhorn, UK group managing director, said

he was much more confident of new laws now that Labour was

He added: "The market place has been very tough for some time, which is a feature of the fact that there are too many collection agencies chasing not enough work."

He said that in the UK the company had also been hampered by charging too little for the difficulty of the work. However, he added: "We're being much more selective about the work we're taking on. We've got to stop being busy fools and we've got to take on contracts

at the right prices." Intrum is seeking improvements in its consumer division by appointing a new managing director. The previous managing director, Peter Wilson, resigned earlier this year.

In France, Intrum is optimistic of changing its fortunes with the recent acquisition of GRC, a French debt collector, Meanwhile, in Germany, the arrival last April of a new managing director, Joachim Ost, is expected to improve the situation.

market report/shares



Share spotlight



Brown's £3bn nod and wink recharges utility batteries

Oil and water may not mix but ties, rose 25p to 692.5p. Unit-

The water utilities could wesser 18.5p to 404p.

The remaining electricity hardly believe their luck. Did Chancellor Gordon Brown more than £3bn?

According to some reports

According to some reports

PowerGen put on 20p to 721p.

Oils were buoyed by Opec's that is what he told the businessmen who bothered to attend his much-hyped business

breakfast at No. 11. So, if a little belatedly, it was a wash-and-brush-up day for water stocks as they put behind them the dog days when the tax mouncements are seen as at was seen as hitting £5bn and, least setting overall guidelines in some quarters, going much higher and becoming a reguhigher and becoming a regu-lar drip-drip on their profits. Comments from Ian Byatt,

worse than expected. Seven Trent surged 34p to 1,258.5p and Enterprise Oil 152.5p and Thames Water, the biggest of the water ntili-

it is a persuasive combination ed Utilities gained 22p 646p; for the stock market. Workshire 19.5p to 285p and

groups also drew inspiration really intimate that the threat- from the alleged Brown nod ened windfall tax would be no and wink. Scottish Power managed a 13p surge to 377.5p and

decision to hold daily produc-tion at 20.03 million barrels. Although the largely Arab oil production organisation has not the power and influence it on buyers lists; the rump of enjoyed some years ago its pro-

lar drip-drip on their profits.

Comments from Ian Byatt, the water regulator, were also construed as being at least no Shell gained 19.5p to 1,258.5p and Enterprise Oil



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

provided sufficient impetus to give Footsie its third day on the uproad with a 17.9-point gain to 4,657.9. End-of-quarter institutional window dressing 1,140p.

British Gas put on 2.5p to 234p and Centrica 1.25p to 77.5p. Asda, on results, gained 3.75p to 125.75p but Great Universal Stores shed 41.5p to

623.5p. Granada, still collecting flak over the terms of its bid for Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, tumbled 25p to 819p as HSBC took the shares off its

The stockbroker is said to be

BSkyB's sad decline continued with the shares falling a further 15.5p to 455.5p. Glynwed International, the Aga cooker group, was another to feel the heat of City dis-

There have been suggestions of institutional unrest over the management's performance with some detecting calls for the departure of chairman Gareth Davies. A number of analysts recently down-

The shares, which were as

ed the shares 6p to 93p.
Zeneca, allegedly on switching
out of Glazo Wellcome (18.5p
off at 1,259p), moved 34p
higher to 1,970p, just below its The recent flurry in Young &

analysts, fell 7p to 634p.

analysts' visit. gained 26p to 568.5p. Reuters, the informawere unchanged at 697.5p. tion group said to be indulging Guinness Peat has acquired in one-to-one meetings with a reputation for moving in on BTR, helped by break-up bid seemingly impregnable family speculation, gained 10.p to 204p. Rio Tinto, the resources controlled groups. It bid un-

274p. Kro 1 mto, the resources giant, lost 22.5p to 1,061.5p.

Profit warnings again reared their ugly heads. Fashion groups Hamlet lost 32p to 39.5p and Honeysickle 5.5p to 14p; engineer Graystone gave np 11p to 47.5p and finance beginess instrume Institic sufbusiness Instrum Justitia suffered a 33.5p reverse to 92p. SkyPharma's US deals lift-Pearson, have cut their stakes, selling nearly 8 million shares at 605p through Cazenove and Merrill Lynch. The two groups Property group Safetand

high as 370p last year, fell 9p plained when Guinness Peat, Stirrings in the quoted to a 239p, a five-year low. the vehicle for New Zealand end of the Lloyd's insurance. end of the Lloyd's insurance to a 239p, a five-year low. the vehicle for New Zealand and of the Lloyd's insurance lohnson Matthey, on its US entrepreneur Sir Ron Brierley, market. Bid hopes are rising market. Bid hopes are rising disclosed it had lifted its stake with last week's strike at the to 15.31 per cent. The shares Matheson Lloyd's Investment

Trust believed to be the first of many Masthead Insurance Underwriting could be a terget. The shares are at a 124p peak with the market insuccessfully for the family trigued by a 500,000 cross at dominated garage and Burger King fast food group, profits of around £2.1m, is capitalised at £50m. Gowrings. Young with a flat profit record, is run and dom-inated by the Young family

Owen & Robinson, the through the 'A' shares and a block of unquoted shares.

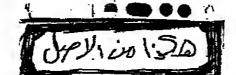
Flentech, the TV group, fell to score any short term benetic from an investment presentation. The shares fell 1p

Merrill Lynch. The two groups received Flextech shares as payment for stakes in the UK. Gold and UK Living TV channels.

Property group Safeland Sas nodged its stake in David Glass Associates to 22.48 per cent. It nurses plans for joint deals. Glass held at 120.5p.

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THE INDEPENDENT

polirrings to the quoted wand of the Lloyd's insurance wand of the Lloyd's insurance with last week's strike at the last wand. Machine of the first being wand, Machine do be the first many. Machine and last wand wand with the market insurance with the market insured by 9 500,000 cross a last with the market insured by 9 500,000 cross a last with the market insured by 9 500,000 cross a last with the market insured by 9 500,000 cross a last wand wand fall in a capitalised at \$50m.

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Property group Safeland the desociates to 22.18 pe to: It ourses plans for inc.

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THE CHARGE

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cupitalised at £50m. Timeo & Robinson, the

pared to around 27,000 for Tesco and Sainsbury, giving it more space to devote to higher growth non-groceries. The "George" clothing brand has been a particular success, with toddler and buby wear sales up 32 per cent compared to just 2 per cent for the market. Volume sales per square foot are as good as Next or Marks & Spencer, hut with half the labour and distribution costs, Asda can afford to sell clothes at 20 per cent below high street prices. The group reckons it can double its clothing sales - currently 5

on the lost causes of the Tory party.

Things at Asda are rolling along just fme. The store group's sprightly sales growth last year adds credence to its

claims that sticking to "simple shop-

keeping" and low prices rather than branching out into costly unknowns like

hanking is a sound strategy.

Asda's like-for-like sales growth at

9.2 per cent certainly outshines Sains-hury's 3.2 per cent. With practically no inflation over the last six months,

most of that has been pure volume.

with more mature peers, but its former

"disasda" tag is now a distant memory.

With players like Kwik Save weaken-

ing, the group continues to pinch mar-

percentage points to reach 11 per

The group is also benefiting from

Of course Asda is still catching up

children's clothes market from 7 to 10 per cent by the year end. There are concerns. One is that without a major move into branded services like banking and even a loyalty card (though that is likely to come) the group may suffer in the longer term. The issue is pertinent now that Archie Norman. who has been so effective in promoting the Asda name through headline-

per cent of turnover - to £800m in a

w years and increase its share of the

the hypermarket sector to itself if Tesco begins expanding in that area. Meanwhile it is getting harder for the group to expand, given the lack of greenfield sites in the south, where it is still not well represented and land

Keeping it simple works for Asda udging by yesterday's results from Asda, Archie Norman, its part time THE INVESTMENT COLUMN chairman, has plenty of time to take

Asda: At a glance

Market value: £3,71bn, share price 125,75p

1994

(126)

(5.91)

1.76

1995

257

6.16

2.20

Share price

1993

187

6.40

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

prices are high. Analysts' profit fore-casts range from £375m at SGST to £397m at BZW. The shares, up 3.75p to 125.75p are on a forward of patients. to 125.75p, are on a forward p/c ratio of 14, still lower than Sainsbury on 15 times, but about right.

Waste paper a drag on BPB

the cynics will say it was more than fortuitous that BPB, Europe's higgest plasterhoard group, ket share, taking another 1.1 should choose last year to move to average from year-end exchange rates. The £10.3m boost to profits provided by the accounting change neutralised what it calls "truly different" stores. For a £10m downturn at the group's reone thing, Asda's shops are bigger, at cycled paper operation, which chalked around 45,000-55,000 square feet comup a £3m deficit in the year to March. As a result, group profits before ex-ceptional gains of £14.3m rose 9.4 per As a result, group profits before exceptional gains of £14.3m rose 9.4 per cent to £175m last year, a growth rate though a price rise in November has that would have been more like 3 per

cent without the change. But that is probably unfair to BPB, which has turned in a very respectable performance against a dire European building materials market over the past

Trading record

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Earnings per share (p)

Like for like sales growth

Dividends per share (p)

Turnover (£bn)

pound's strength and a plant break-down, are set to continue for six months at least.

The business is back to hreak-even. helped by a recovery in prices, and BPB is moving to cut costs and capacity, with two plants being sold or closed and another under review. But even so, the drag caused by waste paper means analysis are not expecting the paperboard division as a whole to rise above last year's £13.4m profits, down a quarter

on the previous year. That said, the main plasterboard to insulation products building materials division put in mother strong underlying performance. Operating profit was up 7.8 per cent to £153m or 15 per cent when currency effects are stripped out. Plasterboard sales volumes up 8 not stuck, divisional margins fattened

by 1 point to 13.1 per cent. More price rises are in store for September and the first £5m of the expected £10m annual cost savings from the £53m state-of-the-art plasterboard

1996

312

2.65

7.96

1997

10.66

plant in Berlin should kick in this year. So the fundamentals remain intact at BPB. Plasterboard consumption in Europe has a long way to catch up with US levels and profits of £185m remain in sight for the current year, putting the shares, down 2p at 333p, on a for-ward p/e ratio of 14. Fair value.

GUS will take some waking up

hen Lord Wolfson of Sun-ningdale took the helm at Great Universal Stores from his cousin last September, he was charged with reawakening the sleeping catalogue giant. That is easier said than done. Pre-tax profits, ignoring excep-tional VAT refunds, fell 2 per cent to £549.1m in the year to March. To be fair, the strength of the pound more than accounted for this slump, wiping nearly £22m off the bottom line. But that cannot disguise the fact that home shopping profits tumbled from £187m to £158m.

GUS's core agency catalogue husi-ness is in sad decline. Its customers are being lured by the plethora of out-oftown stores springing up all around the country. Retail chains such as Next are also rapidly expanding their own mail order businesses. Wolfson admits GUS was guilty of neglecting service by cutting costs to the bone and is now splashing out on more staff to remedy the problem, but agency profits look set to fall further.

Consequently GUS has decided to cut out the middle man or woman and develop a direct mail order business, using its extensive database to target customers and then send appropriate catalogues straight to their homes. But the initiative is only in its early stages and will not be a major contributor for some years. At least Experian and Direct Marketing Technology, its two new US acquisitions which provide customer information for credit card and retail companies, should

boost earnings in the current year.
The shares fell 41.5p to 623.5p yesterday as analysts rushed to slash cur-rent year profit forecasts on home shopping fears. Estimates had ranged from around £600m to £625m, but the broker SGST is now looking for profits of £575m, before any further tax credits, putting the shares on a prospective multiple of 16. That still looks a full rating, even after the sharp fall in

Fashion victims, look out for the clothes police

Perhaps it's something to do with Arcive Norman going off to be chairman of the Conservative Party, traditionally the party of law

and order. Asda, where Mr Norman is non-executive chairman, is launching its own "clothes police". The supermarket group has declared a clothing amnesty

and is sending its police into its stores to "arrest" people who pay over the odds for fashion. Asda operatives vesterday unveiled a life-size cardboard cut-out of George Davies, the former head of Next, wearing a "clothes police" cap and Tshirt. After leaving Next Mr Davies built up and sold his own company, The George Davies Partnership, to Asda, which now markets the

George range of clothing. Journalists and analysts were presented with ties and scarves from the George range. The writers packed their booty away while the analysts donned their ties immediately. Yet another example of City short-

Mr Norman was reluctant to answer questions on the election, saying: "We don't want to get depressed. This is a story about success."

Significantly perhaps, every Asda member of staff was wearing a first-person name badge - except Mr Norman. Mentally, he's already in Smith Square.

Here's a joke doing the rounds at Goldman Sachs: There's a rumour that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is going to impose a national insurance surcharge on six-figure "fat cat" bonuses, Goldmans, however, is very relaxed about it. According to an insider: "It doesn't affect us. It would only hit us if it was seven figures.

Lord Forte has put his splendid pile in Ripley, Surrey, up for sale, I hear. The extensive estate includes

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PEOPLE & BUSINESS



No dummy: George Davies sold his company to Asda

a large stately home and two farms, although the prestigious Ryde Farm dairy attached to the estate is being closed down. The whole lot can he yours for a mere £8m. You'd better hurry before a Goldmans partner snaps it up.

BPB, formerly British Plaster Board, may sound like a boring company, but the Messianic zeal of its Gallic chief executive, Jean-Pierre Cuny, more than makes up

for this lacklustre image. Yesterday Mr Curry once again extolled the virtues of his product, which dominates the American market, while being rather less popular in the UK and on the Continent He said he was not trying to glamourise his product, but that "at BPB we believe in God and plasterboard". Not bad for the man who once described himself as "the Billy Graham of plasterboard".

Wimhledon may resemble the Great Flood at the moment, but Ian Byatt, head of Ofwat. is not grumbling at missing the tennis. Yesterday a journalist remarked to the water supply Czar that although the weather was dismal, it should mean the end of hosepipe bans for this summer: "At least Thames

To which Mr Byatt replied: "It's not just Thames Water. I wake up on a weekend when it's raining with a spring in my

Lord Rothschild is going to have even more time to decide how to spend the National Lottery money, as he is retiring as a director of St James's Place Capital, the financial group he built with

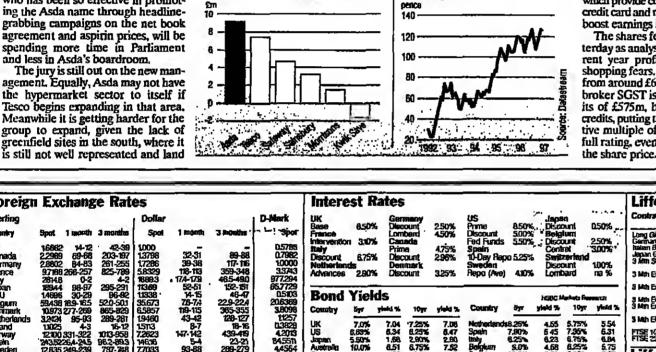
Mark Weinberg. But he's still heavily involved with the group, as he is becoming president of SJPC. He has found that chairing the committee which decides where the lottery millions should go has become a far more timeconsuming and onerous task than was anticipated.

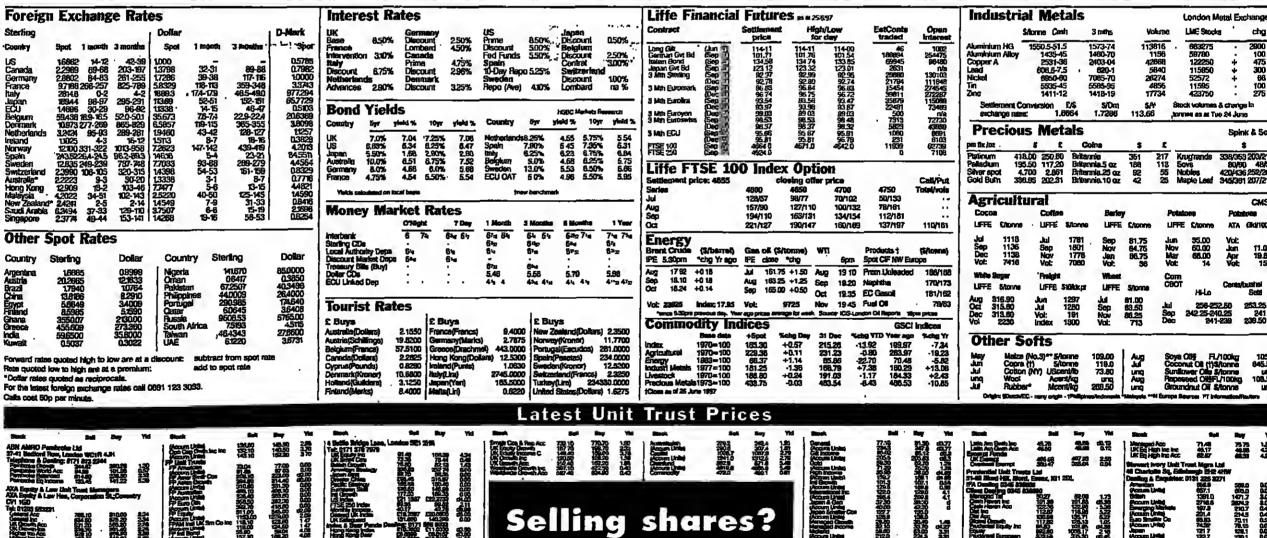
Lord Rothschild has another nine months to go on the lottery committee and Mr Weinberg says he's "enormously husy with it".

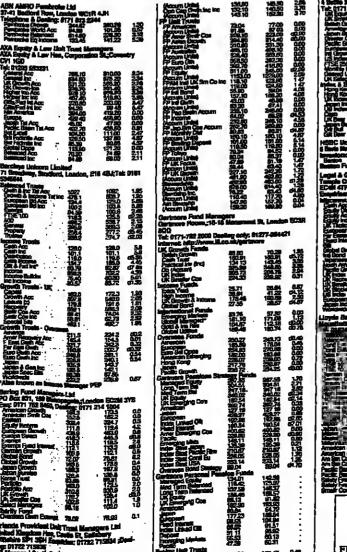
At the same time there are other boardroom changes stemming from the plan. announced several months ago, for J Rothschild Assurance Holdings (JRAH) to become a wholly-owned subsidiary of SJPC. SJPC said William Wellesley was to resign as a director, while Michael Wilson, chief executive of JRAH, would become an executive director

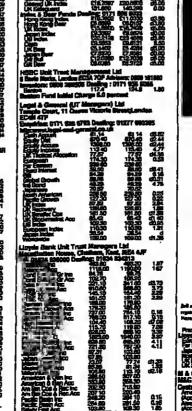
The Freight Transport
Association can announce a technological triumph - it has invented time travel. That is the only explanation for a press release which has just plopped onto my desk; "Chancellor Brown's Budget: 2 July 1997; Transport Industry's Response." Either Dr Who has joined the FTA or Peter Mandelson has one hell of a leak to track down.

John Willcock

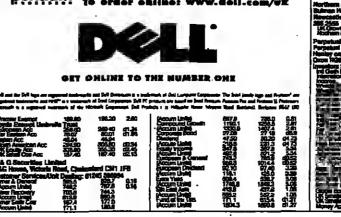


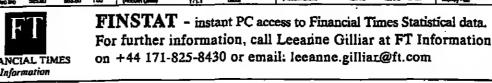


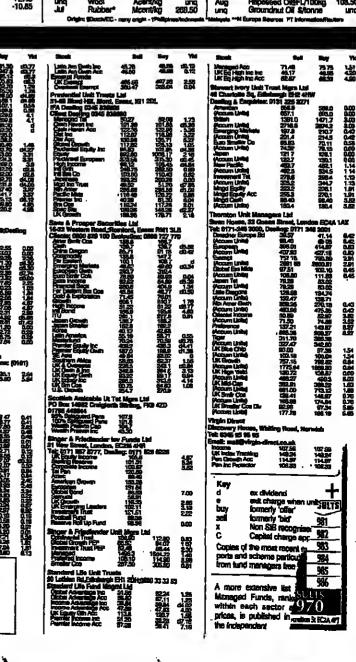












Tyson troubled by onslaught of doubt







Mind game: Mike Tyson's tortured mien at a press conference in Las Vegas earlier this week hints at the inner turmoil which may undermine his heavyweight title challenge

ore attention should bave been paid to the twists and turns of a long conversation Mike Tyson bad with reporters last November, shortly before Evander Holyfield stopped him in 11 rounds for the World Boxing

Association heavyweight cham-

With hindsight there was enough in Tyson's demeanour to suggest not only serious disregard for Holyfield's warrior instinct but an erosion of the grim purpose that had spread terror

throughout the division.
If technical shortcomings and neglectful preparation con-tributed to Tyson's downfall there was also a sense of uncertainty. It lingers, and Tyson's claimed commitment to family life, the emphasis he places on the future well-being of his children, may be as relevant to the outcome of tomorrow's rematch here as the results of attempted improvement.

At this stage of his career Tyson may well be in conflict with the inner man, troubled by maturity, at odds with the primitive instinct that was central to his violent progress in the ring. Where Tyson once scorned the possibility of defeat he now accepts that Holyfield could beat him again. "If it happens I'll carry on fighting," be told friends and close associates this week.

would not be the end for me." Maybe not, but those are not the words of a man still committed to the rough and tumble of prize-fighting. They are those of a man who asks questions of himself. "Sometimes I wonder why I am doing this," he said, "but what else is there? Even now, after all I bave been through, I don't know exactly what I want to do. I enjoy my kids and I want to make a dif-ference with them. My children are all I have. It [family life] is relatively knew to me. Wives are buman, they may run off with

The outcome of tomorrow's world heavyweight title bout may hinge on the state of mind of a challenger whose powers of intimidation are waning, writes Ken Jones from Las Vegas

other people. But you bave to take care of your children. They are always there. I'm glad that I have them at this stage of my life, hecause they are at an age when they really don't know what goes on in this business.

"My children know what I do. But I think of it as their future. Every time I get into the ring it helps their future. Every fight means a different future for them. They cried when I lost to Holyfield. But they saw I was OK, so they didn't trip up on that too much.

Tyson's mentor, Cus D'Amato, is still around in the form of memory. "Cus was a great emotional teacher," he said.
"We learned from him not to take anything personally as far as the joh was concerned. This than hoxing. I helieve that back to the true state of Tyson's boxing is the best sport in the world, but I can't get caught up

life is all about. No longer true to a formula of establishing superiority through intimidation, Tyson is unquestionably less of a force than he was, and the feeling grows that Holyfield has his

in defeats, because that is what

Doubts may be crowding in on Tyson as they do on practi-cally everyone who is required to arrive at a conclusion about the contest. Holyfield's apparent confidence, the coolness he exhibited on Wednesday when speaking at a press conference attended by hundreds of media representatives, has become important in the reckoning. is our life. We bave much more But for many of us it still comes

mind and whether the return of Richie Giachetti as trainer has brought about improvements in technique and attitude.

In that respect there is very little to go on hut the careless words of a sparring partner may prove significant. Today, Mike was good. And yesterday and all those other days? One question begets another and I still do not know where I am with this. When did a beavyweight championship fight raise so much speculation?

When asked about the first tht, Tyson said: "Basically, I didn't know what I was doing out there. I thought I'd won, then I realised that Holyfield was the winner. It was all very confusing but that's in the past, history. Perhaps Tyson draws strength

from mistrusting people gener-ally and the realisation that his present situation in life, his past successes in boxing and his prosperity, prove merely that nothing is for certain. "Everyone is against us [his organisation]," he said. "Nobody is on our side. Corporations are against us. Systems are against us. The media is against us, but we are still in there fighting, still doing well. I don't want to be on television shows, to make out that I'm friendly with those people. I don't want to pretend to know them. The people I care about know me. All the media has

Tyson's past rises up before him. Scandal after scandal culminating in conviction for rape and a prison sentence. He speaks of being ripped off by lawyers and conned by a group who took \$250,000 for the construction of a mosque and then left town with the money. "No one knows me. What has hap-

done is hurt me and my family."

pened in my life makes me the person I am. I'm the only one who knows me. I've been taken advantage of all my life. I've been abused. I've been dehumanised. I've been humiliated. I've been betrayed. And I'm still angry and bitter about it. But you can't progress unless you let that go. It keeps you sharp to be revengeful but it also keeps you broke. History proves that the only person in boxing who really struggles is the fighter." What Tyson appears to he

struggling for is a renewal of the powers that made most of his contests a foregone conclusion. Nevada boxing officials are to hold an emergency meeting to consider a protest by Tyson's camp over the appointment of Mitch Halpern as referce, because of his handling of the first fight against Holyfield last November. The commission has been told that Tyson was upset over Halpern's handling of head hutts in the fight.

Bullen official approval

Equestrianism GENEVIEVE MURPHY reports from Burgle

Sarah Bullen held the lead after vesterday's first day of dressage in the international twostar section of the Macallan International Horse Trials here in Moray. Her test on the sevenyear-old stallion Rock King was so good that the ground jury sent a message to congratulate her on her superh dressage. Bullen would have ridden the

stallion at Windsor, but she is the organiser of that event and knew it would be impossible to ride there as well. So she has made the long journey to ride her horse at this northernmost

three-day event in Britain. Bullen overtook Darrell Scaife, who had held the lead on the grey mare Facric Daz-zier. The last time I was in the lead here after the dressage, I fell at the last cross-country fence so I don't know that it bodes well," said Scalfe before he was overtaken.

Scaife rode the seven-yearold at Windsor in May, but she struck into herself on the crosscountry and had to be pulled up. She is still quite green, so we thought we'd give ber a jolly in

Scotland," Scaife said. Chris Bartle, the long-time leader, is now equal third on Oscar - who will, he reckons, face a tough test in tomorrow's cross-country. Yesterday's scudding clouds brought some heavy showers and some stretches of ground (particularly the pudding-like uphill chimb after fence five) will make it a test of stamina as well as jumping.

Terry Boon, who is leading in the national two-star section on Into Overdrive, is equally well aware that the course will be a serious test of fitness. His 10-year-old mount, who show jumped for 10 years before turning to eventing this spring. has a wonderful record so far having won his first six events in his new discipline.

"He has enough scope for jumping the fences." Boon said. He also has a hig stride and is able to get into a rhythm and keep it." These should prove useful attributes tomorrow. Results, Digest, page 29





You may have shown your skill on the pitch time and time again. You might even be an expert at FIFA 97. But to make the grade as a tootball manager requires a rare combination of leadership, judgement and lootball savvy.

FIFA Socces Manager's revolutionary Artilicial Intelligence ensures that every action you take influences the run of play. All the divisions from five of Europe's top leagues make the most comprehensive management game around. But fail to make the most of your resources and you'll be hanging up your boots for good. FIFA Succer Manager - Worth the

pain for a glimpse of the glory.





FIFA SOCCER MANAGER

For Windows (95)

llott revels in swing conditions

Cricket

HENRY BLOFELD reports from Southend Derbyshire 142: Essex 157-2

Southchurch Park was a hleak enough spot for most people as the cold wind blew fiercely all day, but one man who will have enjoyed it was Mark Bott, Bowling from the Northumberland Road end, he bad swept aside the Derbyshire batting hy mid-afternoon, taking 7 for 59.

It was raining just about everywhere else in England, but for some strange reason this and batting was a precarious business until Stuart Law played as only he can on a damp, un-

welcoming evening.
Phillip DeFreitas won the toss and decided to bat, although the surface had that look about it which would have prompted a fair number of captains to field first. Host was able to swing the ball nastily back into the right hander.

It was evidence of this that four of his right-handed victims were out leg before. Bowling left arm over the wicket, he would have had to have brought the ball corner of Essex was fairly dry. back into the bat if he was to get

The pitch was green, the ball an lbw decision in his favour. In swung and moved off the seam these conditions and at this levthese conditions and at this level. Ilon can be a giant; on bland Test pitches against better batting, he has not found it so easy. He began Derbyshire's

downfall in his third over. Matthew Vandrau came forward to the third ball and, play-ing no stroke, was lbw. Two balls later. Chris Adams tried to drive through the off side and was caught behind.

For a time, there was solid resistance from Adrian Rollins, but after a shower bad claimed five overs, he drove at Ashley Cowan and was picked up low and with ease by his brother, Robert, behind the wicket for Essex.

After a flourish by DeFreitas at the end, the Derbyshire innings ended in the 48th over. Devon Malcolm, who had helped him add 28 for the last wicket. limped off after being struck on the left foot by Hott. A X-ray

showed only bruising, although he did not field, let alone bowl, Essex soon lost Graham Gooch, who cannot find his touch, and Durren Robinson. This let in Law, who began to bat as if the pitch was the best in the world. A succession of glorious strokes flowed off his bat, and he reached 50 in 119 balls with eight fours and found a resourceful partner in Paul Pricbard, who also reached 50.

O PLAY YESTERDAY: Le

Rain pulls plug on floodlit Oval

DAVID LLEWELLYN

Floodlit cricket certainly came to The Oval last night. Around the flooded outfield, pools of water, which had formed following a day of torrential rain, glistened under £40,000-worth of lighting which was to have brought one-day cricket in Eng-

land out of the dark ages. The weather deterred the hoped for thousands of fans from attending what was to bave been the first AXA Life Sunday League match staged under lights in this country.

As the Surrey and Nottinghamshire players kicked their heels in the dressing-room the match was ahandoned, and officials were left counting the cost of trying to put on so ambitious a show, given the fickle nature of the weather in this country.

"We never set out for this to be a financial bonanza," Paul

Sheldon, the Surrey chief executive, said, "we merely wanted to pioneer something new. It was always intended to be a break-even operation."

The costs of between £80,000-£100,000 were covered either by sponsorship for the lights, or through the club's insurance scheme.

"So much effort has gone into this from the behind-the-scenes people and it's not fair that we couldn't be given a chance even to get started," the Surrey manager, David Gilbert, said:

With forecasts of further rain overnight the club feared that The Oval outheld would be damaged when the mobile cranes used to erect the lights moved off the waterlogged turf. Australia's hopes of match practice before next week's third Test against England were thwarted for a second successive day at The Parks as play against British Universities was again washed out.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD Britannic Assurance County Championshi (Fest day of four, today 11.0) Bowling: Drakes 12-3-44 0, kirtley 11-1-41-3; Robinson 7.4-0-27-2

Essex v Derbyshire SOUTHEND: Essex (4pts) are 15 n

Fall: 1 19, 2-31 To beat RC law, RJ Rolans, N C law, A P Green, D R Law, RJ Rolans, M C law, A P Cowan, P M Such.

Bowling: Defreque: 14-1-50-0; Hams 18-5-60-2; Crahe 5-0-20-0; Usech 6-0-27-0
Umpines: 2 1 Meyer and J H Hams.

Glamorgan v Sussex MORGAN - First kmings James C Moores b Nintey torns Dw b Nattey

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 25/6/97. The winning numbers: 12, 17, 27, 28, 38, 40. Bonus number: 6. Total Sales: £26,267,888. Prize Fund: £13,427,349 (45% of ticket sales plus £1,606,799 Superdraw funding). atch 5 plus benus be £1,044,057 £652,290 £13,417,256 $\mathcal{M}^{-1}(\mathcal{O}_{k}(\mathbf{1}_{k}^{n},\mathbf{1}_{k}^{n})) \leq 2\varepsilon_{k}^{n}(\mathbf{1}_{k}^{n},\mathbf{1}_{k}^{n})$ THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

* THE INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL LIVE COMMENTARY 0891 881 485 COUNTY

ROUND UP

0891 525 075

Bullen The losers who picked six winners approval

Equestrianism CENEVIEVE MURPHY Harris - Care Bargie

and in held the lead a the interest of the Macalant o He test on the see that the grandie the congrandie type to congrand type the dressess and have release Minday, how Windson, burge, in that well & · dia ne impresside - 20 Well So the h

one journey to me : the northern nt in Brian Trook Dane ned held the ke Mate Facile De the dresser. 12 CTON-0000 that know the and Scalle below inc security

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ng conditions a

[undira vi.ed.lk in in that - 25 mag - 110 i ar had a rind in R. hinsen hem b 4 marginal - 1. j.oks

THE WILLIAM

WAS THEM

There is a romantic myth float-ing around in racing that, when it comes to hetting, puniers are a communal army battling together against the common enemy, the bookmaker. Anyone who wants to cling to this view must exit their bookmakers and nip oext door to W H Smith for the latest Mills & Boon. Fact: In this game, it is punters versus punters and bookmakers versus

The bookmakers know this. For every £100 they take in bets, about £70 is returned to the punters. The bookmakers compete with each other in attract business. And the punters vie amnng themselves for the largest slice of that £70,

The professional gambler knows this. When he charges in the oo-course boards bookmaker to get the 5-2 about a should not pass unnoticed. John horse which is shortening in 2-1 Brown, the firm's managing diracing, and that can only be

Lord Wyatt's 21-year tenure as

Inte chairman was extended

when he was re-appointed for

another month. In yet another

twist in a remarkahle saga, he

will remain at the helm of the

pool-betting organisation until

the end of July while the Home

The delay by the Home Of-

fice would suggest that Maurice Lindsay, chief executive of the

Rugby Football League, is still

Office resolves his successor.

past his 79th birthday yesterday

elsewhere, it is other punters, not hunkmakers, that get knocked out of the way. It is no different with pool

betting. And nothing illustrates that bookmakers are competing with each other - and that punters are at each other's throats - better than the row this week between the Tote and William Hill over the Tate Jackpot at Warwick nn Tuesday.

The Jackpot, after mounting excitement following a number of days when nn nne picked all six winners and the money in the pool was carried over to the next day, eventually paid out a dismal £5.664 to a £1 stake. A starting-price accumulator with a bookmaker would have netted £8,682.

William Hill, in particular, are determined that these figures

£75,000 a year post, along with

the long-time front-runner Pe-

ter Junes, a former British

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Bint Albaadiya

(Newmarket 4.30)

NB: Surprise Mission

(Newcastle 6.45)

ready been extended by two

under consideration for the months, was expected to retire

FOLKESTONE

HYPERION

2.10 Fast Franc 2.40 THE FUGATIVE (nap) 3.10

Flourishing Way 3.40 Wildfire 4.10 Palo Blan-

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places).

STAILES: Straight - stands side; round course - outside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for Et & 6f, high for 7f to 12f.

Eight-hand, undulating course with a run-in of one furloug.

Course is 6m W of town off A2D, Westenhanger station (service from London, Charting Cross) adjoins course. ADMISSION:

59 (under-16s fire). CAR PARK: Free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Antiquam Jame (3.40).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: The Pogative (2.40) won

at Sprann on Wednesday.

nt Epoon on Wednesday.

LONG-RISTANCE RUNNERS: Premier Dance (3.40) & Q Pactor (4.10) have been sent 227 miles by D Hayda Jones from Efall-lauf, Mid Giamorgan.

2.10 CHANNEL SELLING STAKES (CLASS 6) £3,000 added 270 5f

= 4 decimed = BETTPIG: 1-3 Fast Franc, 5-1 Just A Stroll, 13-2 Wind in The Park, 16-1

2.40 STONE STREET HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 5f

-00201 THE FUGATIVE (2) P Mitchell 4 8 13 (7ex) _____ 5 Sanders 2

- 4 declared -BETTING: 7-4 The Pagetine, 9-4 Sally Stade, 5-2 Texas Conglet, 11-2 Good-

3.10 HYTHE FESTIVAL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 6f

FLAMETER C British 8 9. 022-42 PLOURISHING WAY 1410 R CTURROR 8 9.

33 FAST FRANC (4) (BF) 5 C Williams, 8 11 T Sprain: 2 JUST A STROUL J 5 Moore 8 11 P P Morphy (3) 1 O SHAYADME (24) O FRANC Dates 8 6 R Price 4 O WIND IN THE PARK (17) M Salamen 8 6 S Bell-broth 3

Wyatt, whose term has al-

Horseracing Board director.

Wyatt forced to stay on as Tote chairman

02 FORTEYN (SB) A Stewort 89...

- 7 declared -BETTING: 8-11 Flourishing Way, 2-1 Fordays, 8-1 Hever Boil Rocket, 10-1 Flamets, 25-1 Secret Strongth, 33-1 Hot News, 10-10 Kildee Boy

3.40 ROMNEY MARSH HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 4f

pics 7st 40, Dutch Dyne 7st 2ts.
BETTING: 9-4 Nothing Doing, 7-2 Wildline, 5-1 Premier Donce, 8-1 Zatopek,
10-1 Antiguns Jane, Admirals Socret, 12-1 Serious Trust, 16-1 Arti, Manirals, 25-2 Hippios, 33-1 Dutch Dynns, 50-1 Gradious Imp

4.10 ARGLES & COURT HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325 added filles & mares 6f 189yds

BETTING: 2-1 Palo Branco, 9-4 Q Factor, 3-1 St Blaine, 7-2 Waypoint

4.40 SHEPWAY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 1f 149yds

042024 BAKERS DAUGHTER (25) J Arnold 5 10 0 Martin Dwyor (3) 5

20-400 BOLD FN/TH (46) W Musson 4 8 3 560153 KROV PROTESE (3) (D) Mrs L Jewel 5 8 8. D WH 65-001 LORRIS GOLD (23) A Turnel 7 8 6 560151

lan Davies on the lessons that punters can learn from the Warwick Jackpot row

rector, has attacked the Tote, particularly over the difference between the advertised total poni (£879,499) and actual amount paid out after the Tote's 29 per cent deduction. Brown said: "They [the Tote] mislead people. They put out in the paper there was £850,000-odd in the pool to be won, but there never was, it was only £600,000 to be won."

Roh Harnett, the Tote's publicity director, responded: "We are not going to allow them to pour cold water on something that has been good for racing and the betting industry. As the amount grew over the past week, it generated genuine ex-

nn Monday with the identity of

his successor known. But the

Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has

been unable to make a choice.

the speculation but I have nev-

er commented on the issue and

my position remains the same.

I have absolutely no comment

insist that Lindsay is staying on

as its chief executive. David

Callaghan, of the RFL, said:

"His position is quite clear. Mr

The Rugby Football League

whatever to make,"

Lindsay said: "I am aware of

good for the sport and the bet-

ting industry."
The truth is that the idea that the bigger the carry-over the better a wager a Jackpot becomes is wrong. Six-horse accumulators are not, in themselves, a shrewd form of betting-they are the antithesis of the professional gambler's preferred investment - the on-course, therefore tax-free, win single.

Accumulators on six races of the Tote's chnice become attractive only if there is an excellent chance of the eventual payout being far greater than its starting-price equivalent.

That does not happen simply because the Jackpot pool has the amount of "dead money" in

ecutive of the RFL and he has

oot been offered any other po-

■ Torrential rain in West Sus-

sex is causing concern for offi-

cials at Goodwood who are

due to stage one of their pop-

ular evening meetings tonight.

The clerk of the course, Rod

Fabricius, said: "Following two

and a half inches of rain in the

last 36 hours the course suffered

surface water flooding in the

straight this afternoon."

sition outside the sport."

the pool - the carry-over - is bigger in proportion in the amount of live money going into the pool that day.

For example, at Windsor on 16 June, there was a carry-over of £10,437.61, but only an extra £3,298.95 entered the pool that day. If the card had not looked so difficult that day, it would have been an excellent occasion on which to have a go.

Conversely, the next day at Ascot, the dead money carry-over of £13,736.56 was swamped by an additional £32,548.32 in live money going into the pool. The pool was bigger, but the value had gone and the shrewd punter should have departed hot on its heels.

The Tote Jackpot is often the best propositioo in its early stages, when a carry-over of around £10,000 is insufficient to catch the public imagination and

if the card the Tote selects is tricky, bearing in mind the Tote's 29 per cent take out, it can be a dodgy bet and is best

left to the mugs.

And mugs are what the successful punter has to regard oth-

er punters as being. If punters collectively beat the bookmakers they would go out of business and the game would be over. That is not going to happen. Whatever the punter's angle, be it a new source of in-formation, form-book study or using time figures, the bookmakers adjust their odds accordingly and the games goes

on. Forever. Remember: bookmakers pay nut £70 for every £100 they take in. The trick is to make sure you get more than your fair share of that £70. Much more. Today's Jackpot is at Newmarket.

Ante-post on antenatal

Coral bookmakers yesterday came up with as cheeky a bet as can be conceived wheo they quoted odds about a horse that is almost a year away from being born one day winning the

The horse's dam is Flakey

"You simply could not have a better-bred Champion Hur-dle prospect than this," Coral's

Scarlett Knipe, who runs the Cobhall Court Stud in Herefordshire where Flakey Dove was covered last month, said: "Everything appears to be go-ing well with her. We are looking forward to the result." She meant the birth, not the bet.

Champion Hurdle.

Dove, winner of the 1994 Champion Hurdle, who has just been tested in foal to Alderbrook, the horse who followed in her hoofprints by winning the race a year later. The odds are

spokesman, Simon Clare, said. "Alderbrook and Flakey Dove were two of the most popular hurdlers of recent times."

GOODWOOD

6.40 Amber Fort 7.10 Shanthi 7.40 Tramine 8.10

Dead Aim 8.40 Elakik 9.10 Alarmist GOING: Straight - Soft; Round course - Good to Soft, GOING: Straight - Soft Bound course - Good to Soft, STALLS: Straight - stands only; round course - Inside.

BRAW ADVANTAGE: Uigh for 51 and 61, High for 71 to 1m.

BRight-hand course with planty bends and gradients.

BCourse is N of Chichester between A286 and A285. Chichester station 4m. ADMISSION: Belanond Enclosure 518, Gordon Enclosure 510, Public Enclosure 51 (over-65g 53). Accompanied under-17s for all enclosures. CAR PARK: 52, or free-BLINKERED FIRST TME: None.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAES: Can Can Lady (8, 10) won at Ayr on Priday.

won at Ayr on Friday.

LONG-DESTANCE RUNNERS: Can Can Lady (8.10) has been sent

285 sules by M Johnston from Muddleham, North Yorkshire.

	6.40	MIDSUMMER APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £5,000 added 7!
1	052003	AMBER FORT (15) (D) () Elsworth 4 9 10
2	0-0465	WHITE SETTLER (16) (D) R Hodges 4 9 1
3	0-4313	STAND TALL (7) (D) (BF) Lody Hernes 5 8 10.6 Million (3) 1.
4	30-436	MOROCCO (7) (D) M Channon 889 A Eddery (3) 8
5	240466	SEA DAMES (12) (D) J Bridger 4 8 9
6	-42001	ABTAAL (13) (D) R Hodges 7 8 2
7	200000	DISPAST (14) (D) J Bridger 7 7 10
8	00-000	MORTHERN JUDGE (21) (0) A James 4 7 10 JR Brisland (5) 3 8

Minimum: 72 100. True weight: Dignast Fit 7th, Nomeon Judge 7st 1th, BETTING: 2-1 Amber Fort, 11-4 Stand Tall, 9-2 Abtual, 11-2 White Set-tler, 13-2 Morocco, Sea Danzig, 16-1 Northern Judge, 20-1 Dignast 710 FINDON SELLING STAKES (CLASS E)

04612 INORYS JOY (4) (C) K hory 8 11..... RIVER FRONTIER M Usher 8 8 2042 ROSEWOOD LADY (3) K Burke 8 6... 3 SHANTHI (15) P Makin 8 6.... BETTING: 11-10 Shouthi, 9-4 Ivory's Joy, 100-30 Reserved Lady, 8-1.

7.40 DINAH SHERIDAN HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,500 added 1m 6f 1. 00-602 BRANDON MASIC (14) Baking 4 100. 0551 TRANDARE (18) M Biorstand 4 8 11....

01 MELLY OF THE VALLY (41) H Ceci 38 10 D 06-42 THORSEY PARK (40) J Durby 3 8 4 ______T Spraka 5 8 03-000 DURBYAM (15) (D) G L 1:000 6 7 12 ______C Reitlar 4 V _____ 8 declared _ ____C Reitlar 4 V _____ 8 DETING: 9-4 Milly Of The Valy, 3-1 Translipe, I-2 Brandon Magic, 9-2 Thorsby Park, 6-1 Wild Rita, 12-1 Durbam 8.10 WEATHERBYS BANKING HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 added 1m 1f

14-1 Wallid Beach, 16-1 Lady Godhra

8.40 EBF SUPERIOR NOVICE STAKES (CLASS D) £6,500 added 270 6f

54416 DAYS OF GRACE IS M Meade 8 11.

7 25252 COMECTIS (5) (67) D Cogrove 8 7 J Reid 3
— T declared —
BETTINE: 7-4 Plattis, 7-2 Coustemeder Charlie, 4-1 Mg/st Flyer, 1-1 Concetts, 8-1 Bellet Rambert, Days Df Stayes, 16-1 Piped Aboard

10	MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 2f
	ALAMAST (15) R Cratton 9 0T Speake 8
5	CHANDLER'S HALL (36) M HE3E3A-E8S 9 0 A Clark 3
	DARAPOUR L Comert 90
	DAZZI,NG STONE (312) Lady Herles 8 0 6 Million (5) 2
2-6	FLOWING FORTUNE (15) & Dunlop 9 0 D O'Donohoe (3) 8
	MY BOLAND J Fleth-Heyes 9 0
0-0	SUCH BOLDNESS (49) R Metura 9 0
324	TROPIA (16) I Baking 9 0 5 Wallageth 9
0	INFERIAL OLEN (34) M Uster 8 9

7.30 STEPHEN EASTEN DOBSON PEACOCK HANDICAP (CLASS D) £10,000 added 1m

2500-0 MASTER CHARTER (58) (C) (D) Mrs J Ramsden 5 9 12 ___

on 392___

8 240103 PLAN FOR PRIORIT (8) M Johnston 3 9 2 _____ D Holland 13 V 004441 SUEZ TORNNOD (18) (0) E RADIN 4 9 0.____ A Cultima 2 0 V 8 20005 SMPULSIVE AIR (20) (CD) E Vergues 5 8 10.____ Data 6 disease 2 9 40504 DURAD (18) 0 Smth 5 8 10 _____ E Londiner (7) 4 0 5-0501 AL MARSON (8) (0) 1 W Payer 3 8 20 (5-0) Dean Michigana 1 400-00 MERILMA (18) (C) (D) R Faticy 11 8 2 _____ 6 Canter 8 12 0-0000 MERILMA (18) (C) 1 Bestel 4 8 2 _____ P Fewery (3) 6 13 063224 MCK FLUSH (6) (D) 8 Retried 3 8 2 _____ L Charmock 21 _____ 13 declared _____ MCK PLUSH (6) (D) 8 Retried 3 8 2 _____ L Charmock 2 1 ______ BETTWIC: 6-1 Al Mearror, 12-2 Tignello, 1-1 Gather, 6-1 Plea Per Profit, Share Delight, Statz Fornedo, Jack Flank, 10-1 Scenerion Boy, 12-1 Marter Charter, 14-1 Impulsive Air, 16-1 Winston, Michiga, 20-1 Data 6

8.00 HAMLET EXTRA MILD CIGARS HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,500 added 1m 4f 93yds

0-3201. LEDGERORY LINE (7) Mrs M Reseley 4 10 0 (4ex) A Cultume A

BUERHAMPTON ...

000060 SIMAT SUEST (113) (D) 0 Store 5 10 1 Julies V Me 342401 DREWN CARRIER (14) (C) (D) R PSECCCK 9 10 0 2.20 Misconduct 2.50 Heathyards Rock 3.20 Johnnie The Joker 3.50 Pennywell 4.20 Remember Frimley 4.50 Ring The Chief GOING: Standard. STALLS: 71 - outside; rest - inside

GOUNG: Standard. Stalas: 71 - Outside; rest - Reside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: high from 6f co 1m 4f.
Fibresund, left-hand, oval course.
Course is N of town on A449. Station 1m. ADMISSION: Club
18; Tatterselfs & (OAP members of Diamond Club 14); Viewing
Restaurant 526.90 including entrance and meal. CAR PARK: free.
BLINERGED FIRST TIME: Falled To Hk (3.20); Talaheart (4.20);
Scaled 14 50)

WINNEES IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Mr Paradise (3.50) won at Lingfield on Sunriay.

Lingfield on Sunriay.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNIERS: Heathyards Rock (3.50) has been sent 284 miles by E McKeller from Lesmahagow, Scrathelyde. 2.20 WILLOW MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 5f

2.50 POPLAR CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,300 added 1m 4f 2-1255 HEXTHYDARDS ROCK (5) (C) (D) R McKeller 5 9 13-

OPIC-O TWILLIGHT SLEEP [133] Lord Humangion 5 9 13 K Denkry 13 10 OPIC-O TWILLIGHT SLEEP [133] Lord Humangion 5 9 13 K Denkry 13 100000 JAMP THE LIGHTLY CICE (CD) 9 Whods 4 8 9 JW J O'Clowster 3 200-O TOWNSCH (J.4) (CD) Ron Thompson 8 8 9 JW Beanhill (S) 1 8 400-12 MILL FRAME RELES (4) WM Bristoune 4 9 8 JW Beanhill (S) 1 6 JW Bristoune 4 9 5 JW F Eigen 1 JW J Bristoune 2 9 5 JW F Eigen 1 JW J Bristoune 2 9 5 JW F Eigen 1 JW J Bristoune 2 9 5 JW F Eigen 1 JW J Bristoune 2 9 5 JW F Eigen 1 JW F Eigen 2 JW T Eigen 2 JW F Eigen 3 B F Eigen 2 JW F Eigen 2 JW F Eigen 2 JW F Eigen 2 JW F Eigen 3 B 7 JW F

12 432014 SECTION SOVEREDIN (15) (20) R Holinstead 3 8 7 F Lynch 3 927 (10) Representation (15) (20) R Holinstead 3 8 7 F Lynch 3 927 (10) 2 5 2 Experts, 7-2 (10) Ferral Elses, 9-2 Stellars Sovereign, 6-1 Reality ords Rock, 8-1 Trailight Steep, 10-1 Jump The Lights, 12-1 Reality D'Dr. 14-1 Steep Parts, 25-1 others 3.20 STAR ENGINEERING AMATEURS HANDI-CAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 100yds

0-0400 ENERGET (6) Ktp A Bolley 9 11 2 _Mins A L Hotchis

HYPERION

6.50 Shacrack 7.20 Prototype 7.50 Demonia

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in pisces).

8.20 Cointosser 8.50 Supposin 9.20 Genereux

Eleft-hand course with 200 of un-in.

E Course is SW of Stratford-on-Avon on A438. Stratford station
Im. ADMISSION: Cab E13: Transmiss E0; Course £4. CAR PARELIANDE COURSE £2, remainder free.
BLINKEERD FIRST TIME: Counterer, Colostus Of Roads
(R. 20): Capazza (

(6.20); Generous (visored) (9.20).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: Nove.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Bitacrack (6.50) & Walls Court
(6.50) seet 221 billet by J.J. Birkett from High Sestion, Canabris.

6.50 BROS TRANSPORT OLDBURT 1744 2m 4f CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 4f

BEDS TRANSPORT OLDBURY HANDICAP

056124 BELLAS GATE BOY (14) (BF) J Peace 5 9 5 JMrs 1 Pea 3.50 SILVER BIRCH HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325 added 3YO 7f

—S declared — BETTHER: 12-5 Rechalls, 4-1 Next Y Gamer, 5-1 Present Chesco, 6-1 Pericles, Sr Pandles, 6-1 Persymal, 12-1 others

4.20 BEECH SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,875 added 290 7f 4 CLERSTAL LAD (9) R Holinshead 8 11 MEYCHE88.

4.50 GAK HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added

— 12 deciared —

Merimum weight: 7st 10th fine handing weight: Opening Pange 7st Sth.
BETING: 9-2 Sparkling Edge, 11-2 Marino Street, 6-1 Ring The Chief,
13-2 Magic Rut, 7-1 Qualitair Silver, 8-1 Cortachili, 10-1 others

3035-2 BITACRACK (8) (0) J Bitter: 10 11 0. nor, 7-2 Soute, 9-2 Obserack, 10-1 Walls METTOWN: 15-8 Ept, 11-4 Continco

7.20 KPMG PASAS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f

00' HANDCROSS (716) A Chambelein 6 10 12 Jahr D McPhall (7)
6002- 989455 PET (23) J Fox 7 10 12 _______S Fox
33530' LIGHTHING QUEST (614) Mrs S Smith 8 10 12 ______R Genet.
0/P1P- MANKRID (55) (8) N Lampard 6 10 12 ______

- 9 declared -BETTRIC: 8-4 Proteippe, 11-4 Falthings, 9-2 benefit Pet, 8-1 Lightning Queet, 8
12-1 Mankind, Night Excepade, 25-1 others

NEWCASTLE

6.15 Bali Dance 6.45 Lord High Admiral 7.30 Plan For Profit 8.00 Honourable (nb) 8.30 Atlantic Desire 9.00 Gymcrak Premiere

GOING: Good.

STALLS: Struight - stands side; rest - inside.

DIRAW ADVANTAGE: High for lift to Tr. Low for 1m to 1m 2f.

Left-hand, oval course; tough, galloping track,

Course to on A1, Sin N of town, Metro to Pour Lane Ends. AD
MISSION: Club 512 (510 OAPsidschied); Tattersain 59 (57 OAPsids
ablen; Silver Ring 54 (52 OAPsidschied); CAR PARE: Pree.

BLINKERED PREST TIME: Circuiter (6.15).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Gee Bee Bey (8.00) won

It Reduce on Firiter Lefterafor Life (8.00) was at Are on Frider.

at Redear on Frichy, Ledgendry Line (8.00) was at Ayr on Friday. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Passion For Life (8.45) & Tigrello (7.80) have been sent 311 miles by G Lewis from Headley, Surrey. 6.15 YORKSHIRE-TEES TV SELLING STAKES (CLASS E) £10,000 added 270 6

BETTIMG: 5-1 Erro Codigo, 5-1 Birt Nucles, 13-2 Ball Dames, 1-1 Elia Falts, Makaitu Doe, 8-1 Circulteer, 10-1 inchelong, Tancred Timms, 14-1 others

6.45 GOSFORTH PARK CUP HANDICAP (CLASS B) £20,000 added 51 02-600 PASSION FOR LIFE (27) (0) G Lenis 4 10 0 D He 311144 SUBTRISE MISSION (20) 420 Mrs. I Permitte E 9 15

121552 MBA (20) (CD) | L Sye 7 8 9 8 5 Mediay (7) 200144 200075 NAMEER (2) (N) E NEON 8 8 9 8 1 Lappi 2165-2 MOON STREET (2) (D) H AVEN 7 8 7 A NEON 1 1000 N 1000 12 022101 RESSENGENDISGUESE (B) (CD) M W Englet — 12 decismed — 4 g Adminium veight: 7st 10th. Tup Paralletp veight: Blesshightelsgades 7st 9th. BETTINKT: 6-1 Lord High Administ., 11-2 Swipthe Mission, 6-1 Moon Strike, Canavas Heart, 1-1 Blessingledispines, 8-1 Saint Express, 10-1 others

8.30 GO EVENING RACING LIMITED STAKES (CLASS C) £7,500 added 1m 2f 32yds

1 ANUIN CONTROL OF (14) 8 HB: 5-5223 ANIANTIC DESIRE (6) M Johnst 9.00 STANLEY RACING HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 added 1m 2f 32yds

030-05 OPULENT (37) Ms M Reveley 8 9 10 A College 004-60 MATIMED (7) (0) A larks 4 8 9 X Darley 010132 90AD RACER (10) 00 Ms J Remeder 4 8 1 J Fortune 50445 REEP RATILING (13) (0) J Golde 7 8 1 7 Williams 514033 GOLD DESIRE (8) (70) M Brazilo 7 8 1 C Carter

7.50 GUIDE FRIDAY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 3m

8.20 MEASURE-RITE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 110yds .

SETTING: 1'-4 Colotosser, 8-1 by Edith, 7-2 Willy Star, 8-1 Colosum Of Roads, 8-1 Salvez, 16-1 Touch Silver 8.50 REGINALD CLARK RETIREMENT HCAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m

Minimum weight: 10st. Type hicap weights: Supposin 9st 10th, Co BETTING: 13-8 Also Gaurge, 2-1 Supposin, T-2 lifece, 6-1 Co

9.20 WEST MIDLANDS NOVICE HCAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,575 added 2m 6f 110yds

Alinhourn weight: 10st. Two weights: Ning Anylin Str. 11th, Firsh Chick Str. 10th, BETTHIG: 5-4 Lord Miragon, 7-2 Genereux, 4-1 Rest Light, 5-1 Step In Liee, 6-1 Song For Jenn, 14-1 King Acrylin, 20-1 Flash Chick

NEWMARKET

3.30 Shaffishayes 4.00 ice Age 4.30 Bint Albaadiya 2.30 Mushraaf 3.00 Judicial Supremacy

3.00 Reflectal Supremises 4.30 Birth Albahanya

GOING: Good to Soft. STALLS: Im 2f & Im 4f - stands side; remainder - centre
DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Right-hand course with 1m straight.

E Course is SW of town on Al304. Bus link from Cambridge and Newmarket stations.
ADMISSION: Cub 515 (18 to 25-year-olds 58); Grandstand & Paddock 510 (18 to
25-year-olds 58); Furdy Enclosure 33. CAR PARE: Members 51; remainder free.

E LEADING TEAINSES WITH EUNNERS: E Hamon — 43 winners from 532 ranners given a success ratio of 8.2% and a loss to a 51 level stake of 5.238,56; J Gooden.

43 waters, 301 runners, 14.2%, -508.17; L Camand — 31 winners, 257 runners,
12.18, -5111.25; J Donlop — 30 winners, 285 runners, 10.5%, -5 (09.08.

E LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery — 108 sympers, 528 rides, 21.95%, -544.18; L 12.1%, ~5111.25; J Dunlop — 30 winners, 285 numers, 10.5%, ~5 (09.08; E LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery — 108 winners, 528 rides, 21.5%, ~544.16; L Dettarf — 74 winners, 514 rides, 14.4%, ~5 182.30; W S Swinbara — 44 winners, 511 rides, 14.1%, ~52.17; J Reid — 38 winners, 603 rides, 10.5%, ~544.50; L DETINGERED FIRST TIME: Mardi Grass 13.50; WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None, LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Shaffalages (3.30) has been sent 200 miles by Mrs M Seveley from Lingdale, Ceveland; Going For Broke (2.00) & Imbackagain (2.30) sent 200 miles by P Haskam from Middleham, North Yorkshire.

2.00 LARK CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 2f Penalty Value £3,493

To Seasts

1996: Technet Less 3 8 3 J Stack (3) 5-4 far ul Banks) drawn (3) 7 ran

FORM CHINE

GOUNG FOIR BRONCE has proven abouty over ten furiongs. So, given that he has also produced winning form in the soft, he will be a tough nut to crack. Going For Broke coped well with testing ground at Hamilton last month. Bluebell Miles had just over two lengths in hand of My Beloved when withring a six-furiong Leicester matten (good m soft) 13 months ago and, though she won a shade comfortably. My Beloved was doing her best work at the finish. That was a level-weights meeting, so Bluebell Miles is interesting receiving 10to from My Beloved, especially after her close third to Nawasha in a race in soft ground at Hamilton (1m) last time.

Selection: GOING FOR BRONCE

2.30 EBF EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,500 added 240 6f Penalty Value £4,164 _S Carter

Determent and Linden Heights are sure to emprove for their debuts. Determent, by Warning out of decent recember Detve, menaged only 12th of 18 to Mazboon in a Newbury maden 15 days ago but did better than that plooning indicates, in need of the expensione, he was making headway after a stow start when checked under two furlongs out and coast-out in from their point, union Heights, who is out of a half-store in Give Transis, shoole well too when second to Arawak Cay in a maden auction here 18 days ago, He was given a relatively easy time once it was clear he was beaten. MISSHRAAF, who is by Zaffone out of Vice Vicen and made 325,000 dollars as a yearing, is a half-brother to a smart analysis. Alst-brother to a smart analysis. ance fifty, Cunning (by Bustino).

3.00 ORWELL RATED HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,500 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £5,075

3.30 CAM HANDICAP (CLASS D) £10,000 added 1m 4f Penalty Valua £7,198

SETTING: 5-2 Whitemblie, 11-4 Shoffictyres, 5-1 Resit, 8-1 Jeffoff, 13-2 Engle Conyon, Marcil Grad 14-2 Formidable Fine: 14-1 Formidable Plans 1996; Reimel 7 9 2 T Qurin 9-2 (R Mehurst) down (2) 10 san Friedd Glydd

WHERLAWNILE, by Silver Hawk out of a well-related mare, had shown progressive form in makines turil seeming to run out of steminis in Translor's conditions every, over on extended 1.4 furlongs here 16 days ago. Recing leenly, he threstened briefly three furnity out, but was soon beaten. He was still a bit backward when fourth to River Piot over two out, out was soon bearen. He was som a not accessory when nouth to have Pict over te furlongs the time before and the softening ground did not seem too much of a proble there, even though he finished almost ten lengths off the winner. The trip looks right an he's worth another charact. Sheaffailaryes is consistent enough, but it is a tricky mate he's worth another charact. Sheaffailaryes is consistent enough, but it is a tricky mate he's event at the place against Raiffes Rooster in a tadies' event at York last time and he did well to finish second.

4.00 GROLESTONE PUMPS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 added 3YO 5f Penalty Value £4,503

Minimum weight: 7st 10th. Your handicap weight: M 7 Vesset 7st 1th.
BETTING: 11-4 Lammrita, 3-1 Hor-Do-I, 1-2 Youry Dawn, 5-2 The Guy Fox, 6-1 Ice Age, 20-1 M 1 Vessel 1996: Gaine 3 8 0 Emma O'Gomean 13-2 (W O'Compan) dataint (4) 8 am FORMS GUIDE

THE GAY FOX loves soft ground. His latest effort to be fourth to Grey Kingdom in a 23-numer handicap (6f) at York gives him every chance provided the pace is reasonable.

Lamenta is a confirmed five-fusions horse and she seems to be thriving, lest time beating Suite Factors at Nottinghem. Nor-De-I has not looked fully wound up in his two starts this year and this big galding should be conting to hand.

Selection: THE GAY FOX

4.30 BURE STAKES (CLASS C) £7,500 added fillies & mare: 6f Penalty Value £4,503 1-1 BRIT ALBAADIYA (USA) (S2) (D) (Shelin Armed Al Maktourn) M Stoute 3 8 11 ...) Rold 1

BETTING: 6-4 Birt Albandya, 3-1 Wildwood Flower, 100-36 Wellspring, 6-1 Galine, 10-1 Crofter Cellida, 14-1 Jennetie 1998: Dering Destry 5 8 10 0 Holland 7-2 (K Burkel diawn (6) 7 ran

BINT ALEAADIYA was easy to back when taking a skr-furlong Lingflett martern tast out ber and subsequently showed healthy improvement when making a winning respiperar at Doncester lest month, taking a limited stakes by five lengths from The Lambton Wo on softish ground. Potentially smart, site can improve again. Grofters Cellidih and Ball could struggle on the ground, but Wildwood Flower makes up with gats what she are in size and was eighth in the Wokingham. She and Wellspring can make tite fough the selection. BINT ALBAADIYA was easy to back when taking a six-furlong Lingfield maiden last Octo-

RACING RESULTS

2.45: 1. COMPATIBILITY (G Hand) 4.9 fav. SALISBURY 2.46; 1. Communicatify (G Find) 4-9 Sty, 2. Mystique Air 3-1; 3. Fisionser 50-1.8 rea. 24, nk. (J Gosden). Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £1.20. DF: £1.50. CSF: £2.18. NR; Bongo. 3.15: 1. RUM LAD (J Lowe) T-2; 2. WIIIsam's Well 6-4 Sty, 3. Star of The Road

SALISBURY
2.00: 1. LORD SHITH (D McGaffin) 7-4
th; 2. Celtic Constort 9-2; 3. Who Nose 5-1.
\$ ran, Hd, 2. (W Turner). Tota: £2.60; £1.30, £1.90, £1.90, £7.65.20, CSF: £9.45, 7no; £6.30, NR: Astrolles.
2.30: 1. MONTPORT (T Quinn) 1-2 fav; 2.
Lettyfak 4-1; 3. Smart Play 4-1. 2 ran, 8, 1. (P Cole). Yous: £1.50, DF: £1.60, CSF: £2.47, NR: Corradn.
3.00: 1. CRHSMA PARADISO (T Quinn) 8-1; 2. Koethary 3-1; it for, 2. Wostenel 3-1; it for. 2. Koethary 3-1; it for, 2. Wostenel 3-1; it for.

2. Konthary 3-1 jr tay; 3. Westered 3-1 jr tay; 7 rea. Nr. 2. (P Cose). Tota: 55.70; £3.00, £2.20. DF: £14.00. CSF: £22.85. Tricost: £59.22. Tric: £15.60. NR: Deare Lune, Famly Man, Kayvee. 2-30: 1 MOUNTAIN SONS (3 Duffeld) 2-1

3.30: 1. MOUNTAIN SONE (5 Duffeld) 2-1 far, 2. Legs Be Freedly 8-1; 3. Timetosper 12-1; 14 ram, 8, ½, (M Prescott), Totac 53-40: 51.50, 52-20, 55.50, DF: \$10.80, GSF: £18.76, Tro: £58.00, NF: Foyana, Parissan Ledy, Royal Annunster, Truth Teller, 4.00: 1, ALMASS (6 Duffeld) 7-2; 2. Candille 14-1; 3. Superino 14-1; 3 raw, 8-2 fav MN 70 Wm, Hd, 3½, 40 Wall), Teter 55.00: \$23.0, £4.10, £4.20, DF: £46.00, GSF: £46.68, Theast: £576.23, Tro: £232.30, NR: Always Grose, Into Debt Livin Do Over The

4.30: 1. REGHTY HO (Mes 5 Sermonth)
6-1: 2. Jolly Jackson 7-2: 3. Welcome
Heights 8-1. 9 ero. 5-2 km Merchess Cop
1600. Nb. 4. IP Walwyn1. Tehe: 27-50;
£2-20, £1-70, £1.50. DF: £15.00. CSF£28.30. Thecas: £113.85. Thric £27.30. Nh:
Double Gold, Fan Of Verri-Asia, Silver Lining,
5.00: 1. NMMTABLE (Pat Eddery) 11-4 fay;
2. May King Mayhen 20-1: \$0. One in The
Eye 18-1. 15 rsa. Nb. 3. U Durdop). Teles:
£3-40: £1.10, £4.30. £5.40. DF: £82.50.
CSF: £23.99. Trics: £770.45, This £386.70;
£158.85 carried forward to Folkestone 3.40
odey, MR: Bathe in List. Camphar. Coverber. oday, MR: Bathe in Light, Camphar, Country

rescn. beckpet: <u>56,285.10,</u> Placepet: <u>588.20. Quadpot</u>: <u>528,50.</u> Place Q: <u>556.74, Place 8</u>; <u>544,61</u>. CARLISLE 2.15: 1. RISKY WHOSKY (P Fosey) 9-4 fay; 2. Velvet Story 6-1: 2. Amington Get 5-2. 8 rm. 21/5. 1/4. U Berry). Your £2.70: £1.30, £1.50, £1.40. DF: £5.10. CSF:

RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESTER NEWCASTLE (E) COODWOOD (E)
STRATFORD (E) 0891 261 970 Calls and Stip per minute. \$1.5. plc, Scratter St RCDA (P

* THE INDEPENDENT

3.15: 1. RUM LAD () Lowel 1.-2: 2. WILLIAMS WENG 64 187, 3. Star of The Road 9-1. 8 rest. 4. 2%. U Quinni. Totac £4.80; £1.20, £1.20, £1.70. U Quinni. Totac £4.80; £1.20, £1.20, £1.70. U Quinni. Totac £4.80; £1.84; 1. RUST GRAND () Wesser) 7-1; 2. Campuspe 11.-2: 3. Rest Mound 14-1. 9 ras. 3-1 fav Westminster, 3%. ½. (M. Johnson). Totac £6.60; £3.30, £1.60, £3.70, DP. £3.20, CSF. £42.54. Tócast £485.54. This: £74.50. LST. 10.56; £40.54. Tócast £485.54. This: £74.50. LST. 10.56; £1.80. E. 20.90. CSF. £42.54. Tócast £4.10. DF. £3.00. CSF. £59.85. Tócast £1, 190.52. 7 no: £524.20; £339.66 of 10 Foliastona 3.40 today. 4.45: 1. CAPDAIN CARPARKS (T WEISTMIN). 51.51. Pennion Pland 10-11 fer; 3. Robbo 5-1.8 ras. Né. £, U L 5ye). Totac £15.70; £4.90, £1.20. DF. £21.60. CSF. £29.41. 5.1.5: 1. DEF PER TEC EEE (T LIERS) 5-2; 2. Superpide 14-1; 3. Flyamary Hill 5-2. 7 ras. 9-4 fav Highspeed, %. 4. 0M W Eastminy, Totac £3.30, £1.90, £3.90. DF: £20.60. CSF. £22.88. Planespot: £21.80. Quandpot: £18.00.

Strawberry relief for Pierce

Guy Hodgson on the hard time the players have when the rain falls



Great life a tenois player: sun, seeds and as much sponsored gear as you can wear. Then again you speod a lot of days watching the rain fall. What do you do at Wimbledon if you reach the point of oo return? In Mary Pierce's case you hand

out strawberries. The Women's Tennis Association tried hard yesterday, sending Pierce and Mary Joe Fernandez into the press canteen to provide a photo-opportu-nity. On a wet day at the All England Club it was a trifle the media consumed with relish. It cut the tedium for the players as well.

Stan Smith, when he talks about a career that included becoming men's champion in 1972, said the worst things about being a tennis pro is the waiting. "You have to eat to keep up the energy levels but you can't afford to have a meal just before you go on court. It can drive you crazy finding something to do." Some players like Martina Navratilova built their lives round their diet, some days that life goes haywire.

Stefan Edberg thought he had fin-ished with the waiting game. In 1991 he played the longest match of his ca-reer at Wimbledon when he started against Marc Rosset on Monday and finished it on Thursday. Yesterday the champion of 1988 and 1990 was due to receive a momento from the Duke of Kent to mark "his immense contribution to the game". Instead he took

Rachel McQuillan's day in the limelight was typical of a day amid the storms, in theory Wednesday should have been among the greatest in her career. In theory. She was due to make her debut on Centre Court to play Monica Seles at 2pm but did not get there until four hours later. "I just tried to keep busy," the Aus-tralian said of her wait problem, "be-

cause I didn't want to get fired. The players' lounge gets pretty congested and hot and the talk in the locker-room is 'we're not going to play today'. You start thinking about tomorrow when, all of a sudden, you're on court."

You spend hours waiting and suddenly you are not prepared. McQuillan thought she had run everything through her mind but had forgotteo where she was and had to ask her opponent for the etiquette. "Where do we curtsy," she asked as the Royal Box came into view, "Service line," Seles hissed. "I'm going, service line?" I'll just wait for you.

McQuillan dipped in time and bowed pretty quickly too, losing the hrsi set in 19 minutes and the match



Star kept waiting: Venus Williams, who has had her first-round match delayed by the weather since Monday

and time for a trip to the lockerroom. The girls were saying Rach, you're playing a good match there' which made me more nervous. They said 'I like what you did when you won

time-wasting, tennis iavers do what 6-0.6-2. Even that had its interruption any of us would do if they have hours last year, "and my father is pretty excouldn't sleep."

game of backgammon while Goran Ivaoisevic plays cards with his coach and friend from his schooldays. Vedran

to spare. Tim Henman is partial to a perienced. It's a big battle of pride and we are losing all the time. There are all sorts of signs which you are not allowed to do in this game; a little chearing you know. My father doesn't know If possible the Croat will team up we are cheating but it doesn't help. I sarcasm, gossip and a whole lot of with Martic against his parents. "We don't like to lose at cards. The other

Ah, sleep. That's another option and one that Pierce and Fernandez probably wished they had taken when they were chased around the canteen by a horde of hungry backs. How had they spent their day? "Listeoing to music and playing cards." It could have been

Photograph: PA

Williams' debut washed out

singles singles 3 = , Holder: Holder: Richard Krajicek Steffi Graf

Venus Williams, the American teenager wearing her trademark hair beads in the All England Club colours, made it only as far as the practice courts yesterday at her first Wimbledon as the rain continued to fall.

Williams, 17, sporting hundreds of purple and green beads which had taken more than five hours to braid on one by one, has had her first-round match delayed by the weather since Monday.

Desperate to find her louch on grass, she took advantage of a short break between showers to knock up for 30 minutes on the practice courts before yet more rain forced her back under cover.

After having her bag searched by security staff, track-suited Williams, whose beads are normally a brilliant white. showed off her powerful ground-shots as her younger sisier Screna and mother Oracena looked on.

A large crowd also huilt up around the court to watch the oft tall player competing in only her second Grand Slam tournament but who has already secured a £3m contract with sponsors Reebok. Ranked world No 59 and hav-

ing played in only 15 professional

events, she has been propelled to wears a stunning silver-grey relative stardom because of her outht on court, is sure to be a appearance and background, as well as her potential.

Born and brought up in Compton, a crime-ridden neighbourhood of Los Angeles, she and Serena were once forced to dive for cover on a local court when two rival gangs started fir-ing guns at each other.

The girls flung themselves to the ground in fright before running back home to their parents who, now their daughter is a state that if loose objects, such millionaire, have moved to the more plush surroundings of Palm Beach, Florida.

star attraction when she finalduction of a point. ly starts her match against Magdalena Grzybowska of Poland. But her hair-beads could cause

her a headache as there have been previous occasions when some of the beads have fullen out during matches. Williams has been warned that if this happens at Wimble-don, she could be breaking

state that if loose objects, such as a spare ball, drop from a player's person during a rally, the alm Beach, Florida. point must be replayed. A sec-Williams, who normally ond offence would mean an

TOMORROW'S HEADLINE?

Iennis played at Wimbledon

It could be the unlikeliest event since Ilie Nastase went through a match without swearing at a linesman. Dozing spectators may be stirred from under their waterproofs and required to witness the strange sight of a ball being struck back and forth. Umpires may have to reacquaint themselves with the game's arcane scoring system. The backgammon schools that have flourished in the changing rooms could be closed down to the particular dismay of Tim Henman. Those who like the idea that there's tennis going on somewhere in the distance while they get down to the more serious business of eating and drinking may finally be satisfied. And the bloke at the BBC who has to find the music to go with those rainy-day pictures may be out of a job. But then again, maybe not. Simon O'Hagan

official warning, while a third infringement could lead to the de-

Another rule problem some observers believe Williams could face is due to the loud noise her beads make when they rattle together as she runs. Former British No 1 Jo Durie said the noise had been described as sounding like "someone shaking a money box", adding it could be off-putting for her opponent.

Although rule 25, which covers hindrance of another player, could encompass the noise, there are no examples of the rule having been enforced. Williams' father. Richard. who is also her coach, has not

rest of the family as he is committed to his work with underprivileged children hack home. The player's lack of professional experience so far has heen due to his strong helief she should not do too much

too soon, and that her educa-

tion must take priority over

travelled to Wimbledon with the

Although she has only had a few hours' experience on grass and lost in the second round of the French Open to Nathalic Tauziat, in March she beat the winner of that tournament. Croatia's Iva Majoli.

Court circular

Devon still No 1 for women

ground for star tennis. players. We are talking Devon... and in the last instance certainly we are speaking in relative: terms. Besides all its other charms the seaside county boasts a remarkable record for producing women players good enough to make a decent living out of the game.

In the case of Sue Barker it. proved a pretty decent living indeed. The 1976 French cham-Wimbledon semi-finalist the following year, Sue hailed from Paignton. Before her on the honours board came Angela Mortimer, out of Torquay and a Wimbledon win-

For a long time Comme Mulsworth, another Torquay girl, held the distinction of the last British woman to qualify for The Championships and win a round there. That was in 1976

Parasol party: Wimbledon

the 1990 final

on the giant screen above

Cream, teas, holiday ment was at last matched by beaches and a breeding. Karen Cross, 23, and, some what inevitably, from Exeter.

Also from Exeter comes Lucie Ahi, born just five months later and in a neighbouring village to Karen. She is still waiting to complete her first-round match here.

The list goes on. There wa also Sara Gomer, Jo Louis, Valda Lake and before them Jackie Fayter, atl Wimbledon players and all West Country Wonders.

"Obviously the home counties have produced their fair share of players but, of the others, Devon is streets ahead as a producer of talent," the Lawn Tennis Association's press of ficer, Nick Imison, said.

of those coincidental things. But Devon has had some influential coaches like Arthur Roberts who was a mentor for both Angela Mortimer and Sue



Photograph: David Ashdown Officials wary of those who bare all

Wimbledon. Melissa Johnson. made a name for herself before last year's men's final between Richard Krajicek and Mal Washington when she cavorted on the Centre Court, sans nearly everything, and gave the lie to the belief that tennis players are so focused that they are blissfully unaware of anything

else going on. Wimbledon was braced for more trouble this week when Carlos Moya, a Spaniard who enjoys a great deal of female support, was the focus of some attention from two particularly

streaker looms over this frocks. So insistent was their pleading with Moya's coach, a blonde 23-year-old student. Josep Perlas, to speak to the player on their behalf that he was eventually forced to move his court-side seat.

The authorities have givenconsideration to how best to prevent a repeat of Johnson's frolics. She was detained by the police but quickly released, with Wimbledon noting that, at the end of a rain-affected week. she had provided "light amusement for our loval and patient supporters who have had a trying time during the recent bad

They do have a heart after all.

THE NUMBERS GAME

3 The number of sets to which the early rounds of the men's doubles has been reduced. 100 The number of backlogged matches.

1 The times play has taken place on the middle Sunday. O What spectators paid to watch on that Sunday in 1991. poussis.

250 The price in pounds of a purple and green Wimbledon

6 The age when Tim Henman first visited Centre Court. 5 The millions of viewers who tuned in to BBC2 to watch Greg Rusedski beat Mark Philip-

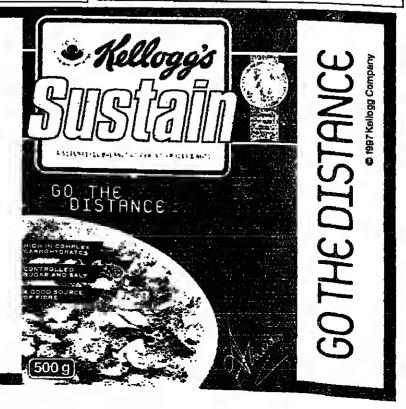
TODAY SWEATHER

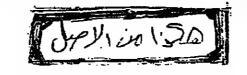
Game set and watch.

ROLEX

OFFICIAL TIME RESPER TO THE CHAMPIONSHIPS WIMBLEHOW

TO BEAT THE REST YOU HAVE TO EAT THE BEST.





INDEPENDENT

the School

· Our survey

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> Johnson: Heading home to try to recover his fitness

Black disappointed by Johnson's withdrawal

Athletics MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Roger Black, denied a chance to race over 400 metres against Michael Johnson in Sunday's Bruish Grand Prix because of the American's withdrawal, has predicted that the double Olympic champion will be back

tu full speed this season. Johnson, whose eight-year unbeaten run over une lap came 10 an end in Wednesday's Paris

Sheffield meeting and Wednes-day's Lausanne Grand Prix in order to fly home to the United States and regain full fitness.

"The next time he puts his foot to the track he will be right and I'll be amuzed if he does not run 43 seconds again this year." Black said yesterday.

Johnson recorded his slowest.

time in a decade - 45.76sec - as he trailed in fifth in a race won by his American colleague, Antonin Pettigrew.

last year's Olympic 400m final, added: "There must be something wrong. For an athlete of Michael's stature to run as badly as that, something is scriously wrong It's like me running 47 seconds. It just shouldn't

مكذا من ألاصل

The double Atlanta gold medallist missed two weeks' training after injuring a quadri-cep muscle in his 150 metres head-in-head challenge with Canada's 100 metres world

in Turonto three weeks ago.
I'd like to think I could

miss two months training and still run better than that," Black said. "Michael is certainly doing the right thing by going bome to sort things out. It is sad fur Sheffield, because we went to a lot of trouble to persuade

Michael to run in Britain again. But an athlete as great as he is should not subject himself to the possibility of another poor race." Black, whose assumption of the British captaincy now looks certain following the as-surances of Linford Christie's management group, Nuff Respect, that their man would not be running in Britain's World Championship trials next month, now faces a domestic

challenge in Sheffield. He will line up against his three team-mates in the successful 4x400m relay squad from the European Cup triumph in Munich: Jamie Baulch, Mark Richardson and Iwan Thomas.

"It's great for British 400 metre running to have those three youngsters yapping at my heels," Black added. "It means I'm not even certain of making it into the World Championship team. I am British captain and Olympic silver medallist and nu

country. Johnson will run in Britain before the end of the season, his manager, Brad Hunt, promised

athlete of that stature has that

sort of pressure within his own

"Michael now knows he came hack earlier than he should have. He needed another couple of weeks' training.

Hunt said.
"I think the people in
Sheffield will understand that he does not want to compete if he knows he is only going to perform to 85 per cent of his

"He will be back in Britain, probably for the meetings at Gaieshead and Crystal Palace before the end of the season."

Schumacher keeps a low profile

Motor racing

DERICK ALLSOP reports from Magny-Cours

Michael Schumacher peered out at the rain cascading from leaden skies and permitted a hopeful smile to ripple across his face. "At least it should not

make it worse for us," he said. The Ferrari driver leads the world championship by seven points, but suspects that by the end of Sunday's French Grand Prix here, and certainly by the podium ceremony at Silverstone a fortnight later, Jacques Villeneuve and his Williams-Renault will have the decisive mo-

mentum. We have heard it all from Schumacher before, of course. He is the master of playing down his chances: remember Canada, earlier this month, He maintains he is ever the realist. Make that a realist about the potential of the Ferrari. The German has demonstrated on numerous occasions his ability to bridge the car performance gap. Now, however, he insists be

is confronting a bridge too far. "Here, and at Silverstone, it is going to he difficult for us to ter Silverstone, I do not know where I will find myself.

The fact is that we are not strong here or at Silverstone and there are four teams who will give us strong competition -Williams, Benetton, McLaren and even Jordan.

"Sure, I am leading the championship, but you have to realise why. As far as reliability is concerned, Ferrari are strong. Williams have the performance but because of certain problems and mistakes they do not have as many points as they might have.

"I will fight to the end and do everything possible to stay in the lead, but I doubt I can do it." One of the mistakes Schu-

macher refers to forced Villeneuve into an embarrassing early submission on his home circuit, at Montreal, prompting theories that he might be cracking under the pressure.

Schumacher, for one, is not counting on that. He said: "It would not be fair to suggest this because of one mistake." The rain would help his

cause, as it did in Monaco, and the local forecaster says the weather will be unsettled deep into "le weekend". Schumacher requires further guarantees. "We must pay someone to pray for rain," he urged his team.

Ferrari are working on less divine intervention, bringing on stream improvements which should make the car more competitive in the second half of the season. Williams, meanwhile, are hoping their familiar surge at this time of the campaign will carry them beyond all powers.

Damon Hill, champion with Williams last season and now, in an Arrows-Yamaha, a distant observer of these matters, believes Williams and Villeneuve can rest assured that will prove

He said: "After Canada Jacques will be feeling shell-shocked but I think he's sufficiently resilient to bounce back and after his home race, he will be feeling more relaxed.

"Williams are always strong at this period and the swing has been decisive for them in the past. They traditionally have the upper hand in France, Britain and Germany, and I would expect them to come through

Buoyed by his maiden finish for Arrows, albeit in a truncated Canadian Grand Prix, Hill is now hungry for more. That was good for the team and for me, hecause it can he deflating when you're not finishing races," he said. "The next step for us is to get into the



Bust-up in Bollvia: Riot police protect Epifanio Gonzalez, the beleaguered Paraguayan referee, as Mexico's assistant coach, Carlos de los Cobos, leads the protests after Wednesday's tempestuous Copa Amarica semi-final in La Paz. Bolivia reached Sunday's final with a 3-1 win over Mexico, who finished the match with nine men after two of their players were sent off Photograph: Daniel Stapff/Reuter

England undone by the 'new Maradona

NICHOLAS HARLING reports from Johor Bahru Argentina

The scoreline was the same as it was in 1986, the last time these two nations met competitively. albeit at senior level, in the 1986

World Cup in Mexico City. Then it was the Hand of God terday in the Larkin Studium in

the second round of the Coca-Cola World Youth Cup, it was faulty passing that undermined England's attempt to remove the holders, who now go on to face their high-scoring South American neighbours from Brazil. "We gave the ball away needlessly," the England manager, Ted Powell, said.

Forks of lightning flashed in the distance as Argentina took decisive grip in the carly stages. Lightning was certainly goal from Diego Maradona not the name of England's that scuppered England. Yesfoundered on a misplaced pass.

Typical was the wretched ball out of defence from the captain, John Curtis, that put Pablo Aimar in possession. That ninth-minute error was compounded by Mark Jackson's rash challenge. Down in a theatrical tumble went the Argentinian and down, too, to no avail. went David Lucas as Roman Riquelme sent him the wrong

way with the penalty. Curtis atoned by blocking a drive by Aimar and with a stirring tackle on the same 17-yearold, who has assumed the burden of being the "new

nor his outstanding Manchester United club-mate, Ronnie Wallwork, could get close enough to Aimar or Bernardo Romeo during a dazzling double exchange of passes. England were carved wide open and Aimar sidefooted the ball in off a post.

Jackson, who had been delegated to escort Aimar, took time off to come agonisingly close with a header from a Jody Morris free-kick but it was not until Morris stepped aside to let Ritchie Humphreys loft over another free-kick in the 48th

Maradona". But neither Curtis minute that England profited. Jamie Carragher's reward for an impressive contribution to England's midfield was to find himself unmarked for a header that belatedly made a game of it.

ENGLAND (4-4-2): Lisons (Preston): Dyer (Ip-swith), Waltwork (Manchester United), Curris (Man United), Crowe (Averand); Jackson Leade), Wappiny (Crowe), Caragine (Licepool), Morris (Chelson), Owen (Liverpool), Marris (Chelson), Owen (Liverpool), Marris (Chelson), Owen (Liverpool), Manphreys Shelfield Wednesday), Substitute: Eucli (Mim-bledon) for Humphreys, 80).

bledon) for Humphreys, SO).
ARGENTRIA (1.2-4-2-1): Niusex (Samuesto);
Cufre (2grina I.P): Semigeele (Lanus), Samueel
(Kesel Old Boys); Riguelare (Boca Antons), Mardeo (Argenta Aurors), Camifolaseo (Final Modrid),
Placente (Argentina Junors); Alsaer (Ruer Plate),
Quistana (Mosel Old Boys); Remeo (Estutiones).
Subetimizer Cobero (Mele; Sarsielo) for Cambeso,
S.R.Y; Perediado (Union Sarae Fe) for Arrer, SS.

Underwood to leave Leicester

Underwood, who scored 134

Changes denied on relegation formula

The Premier League seems certain to press for a reduction in the number of clubs relegated from the top flight each sea-son. Despite Football League claims that the current three up. three down agreement is "set in stone", and Premier League declarations that reports of the promotion and relegation system being abolished completely are "totally unfounded", there is a feeling in the upper echelons of the game that there is a need for change.

The Football League assistant secretary. Andy Williamson. admitted that there have been calls for talks, but insisted: "There is no way that we would ever enter into talks aimed at reducing the number of promotion and relegation places to and from the Premiership.

"In fact, if you look at other league models around the world. Italy for example, there is even a case for increasing the number rather than reducing it.

We believe that any move by the Premier League to change it would not be legal - it is set in stone - but that said, we don't believe this is something they are ready to press for anyway.

Any change to the system would not make the whole issue of promotion and relegation defunct, however, and the Premier League's spokesman, Mike Lee, said: "To say that we are looking to abolish promononsense."

Doncaster Rovers have staved off the threat of extinction following a winding-up order brought by the Inland Revenue. It was overturned in the High Court in Leeds yesterday in favour of an administration order, granted to the club.

Brighton, though, may not be as lucky. The Hereford United chairman, Peter Hill, is to make an 11th-hour appeal for his side to be reinstated to the League. Hill claims that Brighton, who finished one place above Hereford last season, have not complied with the League's demand for a £500,000 bond which should have been lodged at the end of

Salford go straight back into action

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Salford have the unenviable task of being the first English club to fly home from their tribulations in Australia to be thrown straight back into domestic action.

Not back in Britain until Wednesday, Salford have to play Warrington tonight, not to mention flying out again to play Paris next week.

They are professional players and they have to get on with it, however the fixtures fall," said. "You won't hear any excuses from me."

Safford have Andy Burgess at loose forward for the injured David Hulme, while Lokeni Savelio is preferred to Paul Forber in the second row. Wigan are planning to give

the Academy international hooker, Ian Talbot, his Super League debut against Sheffield on Sunday, with Martin Hall out for a month with a broken

The club has deferred the question of what to do about Neil Cowie, sent home from

ing can be convened next week. The chairman, Jack Robinson, has denied that there were any other major disciplinary lapses

on Wigan's flight home. "There were a couple of players who went towards the edge, but they were reeled back in," he said. The London Broncos have

introduced two more of their developing British players into their squad to face Castlefurd this weekend, Giles Thomas, a half-back from Worcester, and Ian Higgins, a centre from

their coach, Andy Gregory, said. "You won't hear any exversity, have both been named on the hench for Sunday's

match. A League tribunal will today hear arguments from Oldham and David Bradbury, who has been in dispute with them virtually all season, over whether the Great Britain tourist should be given free agent status.

Super League in Australia has a new chief executive, but the plot continues to thicken over the future of the same position in Britain. Colin Sanders has been

Rugby League. However, an announcement that was expected this week to confirm that Mauricethad Lindsay was to leave the Rugby League to hecome chairman of the Tote has been put off until next mouth, with Lindsay no longer being regarded as the clear

game to smooth the path to re-

unification with the Australian

Lindsay said: "I am aware of the speculation in the media connecting me with the chairmanship of the Thte, but I have never commented on the hrought in from outside the

Rugby Union

Rory Underwood has been released by Leicester. The former England winger, who turned 34 ast week, will sign off from his 14-year Tigers career with a testimonial match at Welford Road on 26 July.

Leicester's chief executive, Peter Wheeler, said: "Rory has had a fantastic career for the Tigers, England and the Lions, hut he felt it was time to leave as training during the day on a daily basis was proving difficult with his RAF commitments."

tries in 236 appearances for Leicester, won a record 85 caps for England and played six times for the Lions. He scored an English record 49 tries. "My final game for Leicester will give me a chance to thank

wood said yesterday.

all the Tigers supporters who have given me such great pleasure over the years," Under-Northampton's Mike Dods has been called into Scotland's injury-hit tour party in South

Africa ahead of today's clash with

Northern Transvaal in Pretoria.

POLISH LEAGUE Final stranslings: 1 Widowe Lode (34-81); 2 Lege Warson (34-77); 3 Odra Wod-oslaw (34-55); 4 GHS Natowice (34-63); 5 Am-ica World (34-52), Relegated: GHS Belchatow, Huthih Krahow, Stack Winclaw, Sokol Tychy.

The European Conference

has been expanded from 24 to 32 teams for the 1997-98 season with 16 French teams. Welsh representation has been cut from seven to four following the reduction in size of the Welsh Rugby Union's First Division. Rugby Union's First Division.
Scothard RM: Hilmour Genot's FP; A Stanger (Hawck), C Marray (Hawck), R Filespon (London Scottsh). C Johner (Leoester): D Hodge (Warstonans). A Miscal (Sath), capt): G Graham (Neucastie), G Bulloch (West of Scotland). M Stawart, Indontension). S Campbel (Meliose), S Graham (Marstonans). E Peters (Barth. C Hogg (Melrosa), S Hodges (London Scottsh). Replacements: S Longistart (Dunder HSFP), M Dods (Northampton). G Burne (Marstonans), S Marray (Badford), B Stawart (Edinburgh Academacia), S Brotherstone (Melrosa).
NORTHERN TRANSMAL: G Bouwer, G Esterhuzon, J Schutze, K van Vaunen, C Steyr: R de Mangry, C Brylerback: L Campber, H I porps, M Hurser, O Bothshors, R Schmoder, I Brooks, A Fedros (sapp), S Bedeer, R Spelacements K Engistered, F Merry, I. J Tolpard, N van der Weit, J Otto, M Proudfoot.

Crash rules out Criville

Motorcycling -

Alex Criville will miss tomorrow's 500cc Dutch Grand Prix in Assen after he tore an artery in his hand during a crash in qualifying practice yesterday.

Criville, second in the world championship behind Honda team-mate Michael Doohan who took provisional pole after the session, was taken to hospital for plastic surgery to re-

Rugby League store his thumh. The Spaniard lost control on a chicane, and Rugby Union slid over the tarmac with his arm trapped underneath the hike.

of the track for 10 minutes before being taken away on a stretcher. He may also miss the forthcoming world endurance championship race at Suzuka. Doohan, who has won five of the six races this season, clocked

Criville was treated at the side

Edwards stuck in slow lane

The chances of Tracy Edwards breaking the transatlantic record are looking increasingly slim, writes Sing (Alexander, Shore manager field Danby yesterday reported), that Edwards 92ft catanage in Royal & Sun Alliance, had showed to several Sun Alliance, had alo wed to seven knots in an area of high pressure 1,400 miles from a the finish at the Lizard.

at the Lizard.

An Marin Sugar

Edwards and her all-woman crew of nine need to average more than 20 knots if she is to beat the six days, 13 hours and three minutes record set by Serge Madecin 1990. There was little wind and lots

of rain for the 12-metre Classic Regatta in St Tropez, which saw yesterday's race won by Francois Pailloux in French Kiss, Patrizio Bertelli was second on Nyela.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Settord v Warrington (7.90).

Speedway 7.30 unless states ELITE LEAGUE: Bollo Vue y Bradford; Penerbo Violverhampton. PER LEAGUE: Arona Esses v Hull (8.0); Ed-

Other sports HOCKET: Time National Serior roumement for Bubbin; Four Hastonal Under-21 zournament for Strings.
TENNES: At England Championships art Wimble-

> TODAY'S NUMBER 10,000

en vesterday by Ladbrokes on Mile Tyson to regain his World Boxing Association heavyweight title from Evender Holy-field tomorrow. Tyson's odds were cut to 4-7 from 4-6, with Holyfield at 5-4 from 11-10.

The size of bet, in pounds, tak-

American football

The Scottish Claymores have named their communications director, Will Wilson, as acong general manager in place of Mike Keller, who has left because he was unwilling to accept budget cuts.

Athlettics

PARS GRAND PREX (Wednesday's into results): MEDI 100m (non-grand pris sweet): 1.0 State; MEDI 100m (non-grand pris sweet): 1.0 State; MEDI 10.07m; 21 Morganing (MS 10.12; 3 Blusse (MS 10.19; 200m; 1 Fright Na (MS 10.25; 3 Fright Na (MS

Baseball AMERICAN LEAGUE: New York Yerhees 3 De-trol 1: Chicago Witte Sox 8 Kensas City 7 On 101; Baltimore 9 Milleautor 1: Tolas 5 Angherin 4;

oston 13 Toronto 12; Sentile 9 Caldand 4, Post-predit Minnesota at Claveland. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pends 7 Prissephe 5; Housen 5 Prissurgh 1; Cricanae 2 Monreel 1 fin 11; Allanta 14 New York Mets 7; San Francisco 14 San Dego 7; St Louis 3 Chicago Cube 1; Los Angeles 2 Colonado D.

MENTS ELRICPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP (Spain) Broup & Bosne 55 Russe 55; Greco 14 Turkey 52; Yurkey 70 Bosne 52. Greco 15 Spains 75 France 50; Lutyana 57 Street, Greco 51; Lityang 75 Itay 55; Yugushwa 104 Poland 76; Poland 65 Libba 79; Group Dt Lifferre 54 Spain 82; Cros-ta 75 Germany 55.

Raskethall

SPORTING DIGEST

Boxing Herbie Hide was 24lb lighter than Tony Tucker at the weigh-in for their light for the vacant World Boding Organisation 11-te in Norwich tomorrow. Hide scaled 15st 12th 4cz, just over 26b header than when he lost the WBO title to Riddick Bowe,

Cycling

Cycling

Davis Of SWITZERLAND 10th stage [191.25m)
Davis to 28mch Leading positions: 1 N Asbroadd (Switzedard 4ff Smn 51sec; 2 M Betbrit (N serve brie; 8 E 20be) (6c) + 48ec; 4 F
Eastesto Ru same brie; 5 T Suels (8c) st 6 N
Van Heesselk (Rebri st 7 F Andreu (RS) st 2 F
Gud (8) et; 9 L Aus (6c) et; 10 N 2berg Swit)
some 57h. Fisiol overall startifiage; 1 C Agraktio
(6f) 37hr 46mn 1sec; 2 O Cemeratria (8ea)
+2mn 8bec; 3 I (First 16gr) +4.20; 4 O Allote Eastecra Sc) +5:22; 5 R Neer Seq. 4-18;
6 F Casa Gartia (8p+ +6:22; 7 D Nervick) (7s)
+24c; 5 S Gartia (8p+ 7:17; 9 P Bacther (8cd)
+7:26; 10 2 Ching (8m) +8:31.

TORK OF CATALORIA (Widnesday's into re-

+7:26; 10 2 Derg (Surt) +6:31.
TOUR OF CATALORIA (Wednesday's linte resules) Severath stage (237ton, Gerona, Sp. to
Pal, Assoras) Leading positions: 1 8 Hampurger
(Neth) TWA Thr 22nd; 22 Casero (Sp.
16ssaf +8sec; 2 M Zarathena (Sp.) ONCE +11;
4 F Escartin (Sp.) Heime +25t 8 A Casero (Sp.)
Senesto Sener; 5 A de las Curcus (fr) Benesto
+35; 7 P Tonkov (Rus) Mape; 57: 8 C Solsun
(Sp.) Esskapi +1mn; 9 C Contrerae (Co)
Fileskom +1:15; 10 P Lantanchi (S) Mape;

+1:18. Overall standings: 1 Excerts 28ty Smin 58sec; 2 Casers +2sec; 3 Zarrabetts 28; 4 Casers +23; 5 Tonkov +1:04; 6 De las Cusens +1:19; 7 Hemburger +1:30; 8 Solum +2:07; 9 A Massro (Spi Barresto +2:35; 10 0 Rediguer Port Benetto +2:55;

Equestrianism

MACALIAN INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS (Bargle, Moray): Standings after first say of drawarght internationals: 1 Rock (ring (S Bulan) 32.4 parables: 2 Fazere Dizzier (D Scarle) 40.8; 3 Doçar (F Bartel and As Long to Fernau (S Harveson, 14) 46.4 Nationals: 3 Iran Deterting (F Boon) 51; 2 Romanou (P Valence) 55.2; 3 Page Serter (S Seaste) 55.7, National (Pasthorn Section): 1 The Inth One (E Buthe) 41.1; 2 Juneou Priv. (P Varier) 48.0; 3 Canado y Gross (T Blakes 48.2.) Football

Laurie Calloway, the former Rochdale, Blackburn, Southport, York and Shrewsbury midfielder, has been dismissed as head coach of the Major League Socier club Sen Jose Clash. His replacement is the Belistst-born Britan Quinn, a former US international midfielder who was once on Everton's books.

was once on Eventon's Dooks.

Egypt's footbell federation has banned the defender ibrahim Hassan from the international squad for life for making an obscene gesture to Moroccan fans during an African Nations' Cup qualifier in Rabat last Saturday. "The fans insuited Egypt," Hassan said.

COPA AMERICA Seculated (LA Parts Bolina 3 iSanches 25, Castillo 44, Moreno 75) Medico 1, Names 2 5.

(N Ramesz 5).

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSKIP (Natysta) Second route. Argentine 2 (Sorman pen 10, Pablo 26) England 1. Comagner 45); Japan 1 Australe C; Citzra 3 Unest And England 1. Comagner 45); Japan 1 Australe C; Citzra 3 Unest And England 1. Span 2 Capta 6. O, Quarter Hauss (25 Jana); Dinglay y Farce in Shah Alami; Argentine y Boosi in Ruchraff; Span y Republic of Instand (in Shah Alami; Japan y Granz in Japan 6 Finst Ing (Medicatedgy: Real Medicat 1 (Barbero 21) Rayo Vallecano 0 (Socond leg Sunday).

costav (34-50). 4 (8/5 Mecowice (34-63). 8 Amros Worle (34-50). 4 (8/5 Mecowice (34-63). 8 Amros Worle (34-50). Melegature (35 Betchetow,
Hurnik Kinkow, Stask Winclow, Sokol Tychy.

SKY TELEVISSON Live misterh achedule (Leaguemistrhes unless strate) Ampairs Sox 3 Habernon v Cetro (12-36). Manchester Und v Chelege
(3-0). (Chernism V Members, Members, Members, 16-16).

Scholler (3-36). Manchester Und v Chelege
(3-0). (Chernism v Manchester Und v Chelege
(3-0). (Mon 11: Arterial v Covernty (8-0). The 12- QPR
v Wolves (7-45). (Cho-Cob Cup). Fil 12: Normighen Fores: v Norwich (7-45). Sun 17: Inselict v Medicelorough (1-0). Dundee Int v Hibernan
(4-0). Mon 18: Luton v Southerd (7-45). Fil 22: Menchester Cup V Rambers (7-45). Sun 21: Inselict
v Medicelorough (1-0). Dundee Int v Hibernan
(4-0). Mon 18: Luton v Southerd (7-45). Fil 22: Menchester Cup V Rambers (7-45). Sun 21: Inselict
Nemach v Wolves (1-0). Electorum (7-45). Sun 31: Crowe Port Visit (1-0); Liverpolut V Reseater (9-0).

Ren 28: Stockport v Birminghern (7-45). Sun 31:
Crowe Port Visit (1-0); Liverpolut V Reseater (9-0).

September Mon 1: Bolton v Everton (8-0); Sun 7: Oxford Und v Wolves (1-0). Mon 18: Electorum v Bradford (1-0); Electorum v Leads
(4-0). Fri 38: Bennford v Vigorothe (7-45). Sun 14: Birmingham v Sunderland (1-0); Electorum v Leads
(4-0). Fri 38: Bennford v Vigorothe (7-45). Sun 12: Cheriton v Bradford (1-0); Electorum v Leads
(4-0). Mon 22: Leeppool v Aston Villa (8-0). Fri 28: Norwenham v Bradford (1-0); Electorum v Norminal
(4-0). Mon 22: Leeppool v Aston Villa (8-0). Fri 28: Norwenham v Stoffield Widenessay (4-0). Mon 20: Bernater v Covertry
(6-0). Fri 13: Renningher v Villa (1-0). Hibra 27: Leepen
(7-45). Fri 17: Carlsia v Piesson (7-45). Sun 30: Crepton v West Ham (8-0). Fri 14: Portsmorth v Sweffield Widenessay (4-0). Mon 20: Bernater v Covertry
(6-0). Hen 24: Fottenber; Sun 22: Creptif v Sweffield V Stoffield V Sweffield V Stoffield (1-0). Mon 27: Leepen
(7-45). Renn 30: Palace (8-0). Fri 75: Sun 30: An20: Charlon v Bern

Manchesser Utd (1.1.15). Sun 7: Winnbiedon v Southernplan (4.0). Nion 8: Sheffield Wednesday v Barnsley (7.45). Fri 12: Oxford v Queen's Park Rangers (7.45). San 1.4: Whites v Noture, harn Forest (1.0): Botton v Derby (4.0). Mon 12: Nerostee Utd v Aston Ville (2.0). Son 21: Nerostee Utd Aston Ville (2.0). Son 21: Nerostee v Aston San Ville v Aston (8.0). Fri 26: Research v West Bron (10 the) Aston Ville v Totterfram (5.0). Stag 28: Nerostee v Vestgood (5.0). The 12th Cast 28: Southernpot (5.0). The; Nion 28: Southernpot v Chelsee (to the). January: The 1: Hearts v Höreman (2.0). Fri 2: Cast v Rangers (2.0). February: The 24: Kirt Caston v Rangers (7.45). April: San 12: Rangers v Cetto (4.0).

Golf

Heavy rain forced play on the first day of the French Open in Paris to be aban-doned yesterday without a single play-er completing a round.

Motorcycling Participant Confedence (Notice Confedence Co

Rugby League

SECOND DWISION (Wednesday's into result): Brantley (D 4, Rochdele (16: 34. Steamley: Tries Carolin. Rochdele: Thes Memotr 2, Gertlerd, Mortson, Pachniuk, Probl. Books Gertlerd 5, (6)15. Rugby Union

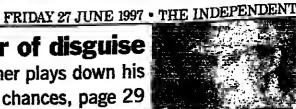
Bridgerid have appointed the New Zestander John Phillips, the former Canterbury flanker and Hawke's Bay coach, TOUR MATCH (Brainpan, SA, Wednesday's late result): Gauting Falcons 38 Scotland 35.

Speedway ELITE LEAGUE: Postponed: besich v Es (waterlogged yack).

4 72 48 74 4 72 48 74 www.dell.com/uk

racked by doubt, page 26

Schumacher plays down his F1 title chances, page 29



Lions roll out supercharged Bentley

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWETT

reports from Durban The Barmy Army love him to hits, the headline writers consider him manna from beaven and the Springboks have been made for him; any hold him in the deepest suspiman who lists Spartacus as his cion as an unpredictable force favourite film is ready to put his of nature. John Bentley's performance for the Lions over the past six weeks has generated more opinion than the single European currency and now

that be is finally set to take centre stage, the clamour of vociferous debate will only increase. A cult figure of Merv Hughes stature with a dash of Paul Gascoigne's cheek and a touch

good measure, the hyperactive wing from Dewsbury will replace the injured leuan Evans in the British Isles line-up to take on South Africa in what could be a decisive second Test here tomorrow. The occasion might

body on the line for a good cause. "I set out to make the Test side and I feel a sense of achievement, but the show is not over yet," he said yesterday after learning of his promotion by early-morning letter in the now customary Lions' fashion. "All I've been given is an opportunity and it's up to me to take it.

shire candour thrown in for sonal and a team point of view.

"In terms of profile and public interest, this will undoubtedly be the higgest game of my life. To play South Africa, the world champions, in their own back vard and be chasing a series victory? That's quite something in anyone's book.

"I'm playing well, I know that. I'm very critical of my own game - very critical indeed. because if I'm not, someone else will be - hut when I look back over the tour so far, I don't see bow it could have gone much better. I was disappointed with the Northern Transvaal dis-play, not because I bad a bad game but because I had no real opportunity to express myself. In general terms, my game

good, although the try I scored there was special. Even against the Emerging Springboks a week or so ago, the first half was pretty quiet. But the last 120 minutes of rugby have been good. Really good."

The Lions will need him to

be even better if they are to close out the series by going two up with one to play, especially as the new Springbok back di-vision will find it almost impossible to perform as dismally tomorrow as their predecessors did in Cape Town last Saturday. The South Africans may be uncomfortably aware of Bent-ley's priceless ability to break games open with his Ramboesque running, but they also feel his flawed positional play leaves

of Fred Trueman's bluff York—be criminal, both from a per-shire candour thrown in for sonal and a team point of view, good, although the try I scored angles favoured by the likes of of Allan Bateman while Tim ment. There was a lot of debate angles favoured by the likes of Andre Joubert and Pieter

> Still, Bentley has done far more right than wrong on this tour and his last three-try effort against Free State in Bloemfontein on Tuesday night was nothing short of spectacular. His first Lions cap will go with the two be earned with England in 1988 and the brace of Great Britain honours he won against France following his move to rugby league later that same

Bentley aside, the selectors have chosen to leave well alone in the wake of last weekend's courageous triumpb at Newlands; Scott Gibbs and Jeremy Guscott continue in midfield de-

Rodber hangs on at No 8, although Eric Miller's claims were considered long and hard by the tour hierarchy at their meeting on Wednesday night. Miller gets a place on the bench at the expense of Rob Wainwright and Neil Back is also included among the replacements as a result of the decision to keep

"The selection process was far harder than one might have imagined in the light of the Cape Town victory," Fran Cotton, the tour manager, admitted. "Our problems were the direct result of the quality of performance we produced in Bloemfontein, which simply reemphasised how well virtually

an extra forward in reserve.

over four or five positions, right wing and No 8 among them."

Cotton confirmed that Will Greenwood, the Leicester centre heavily concussed during the Free State match, would fly home on Sunday under strict instructions to avoid all contact sport for at least two months. Évans, who collapsed with a groin tear during training on Wednesday, will be sidelined for a similar length of time and it is now possible that the outstanding Welsh wing has played his last game of top-level rugby.

Tony Stanger, the Scottisb centre/wing who scored a famous Grand Slam-winning try for his country against England at Murrayfield in 1990, bas

Lions management. There are only two games left after lomorrow's Test but we don't want to be exposed," Cotton said. "We'll look at the medical hulletins on Sunday before deciding whether we need Tony on board."

Underwood to leave, page 29

Liverpool

keeping

their eyes

on Ince

Paul Ince, the No 1 transfer target for the new Everton manager, Howard Kendall, may well be heading to Merseyside - hut to Liverpool, not Everton. Ince's move back to England from Internazionale was looking more likely yesterday. The England midfield player is unhappy that the Milan club turned down a £4m offer from Liverpool, but he may get his wish following In-

ter's agreement with Bayer Leverkusen to buy the Brazilian midfielder Ze Élias for £5m. Bobby Robson, one of Everton's original managerial targets, has been told by Barcelona he will not continue as coach next season, although he is expected to stay at the club. "They told me 10 days ago," Robson said yes-

Bruce Rioch has turned down the chance of succeeding Kendali at Bramail Lane, electing to stay as No 2 to Stewart Houston at QPR. Meanwhile Sheffield United are still de-

manding £1m compensation following the departure of Kendall, who had signed a new

deal in January and had two

years to run on his contract.
"We do not know how long this will take but we're deter-

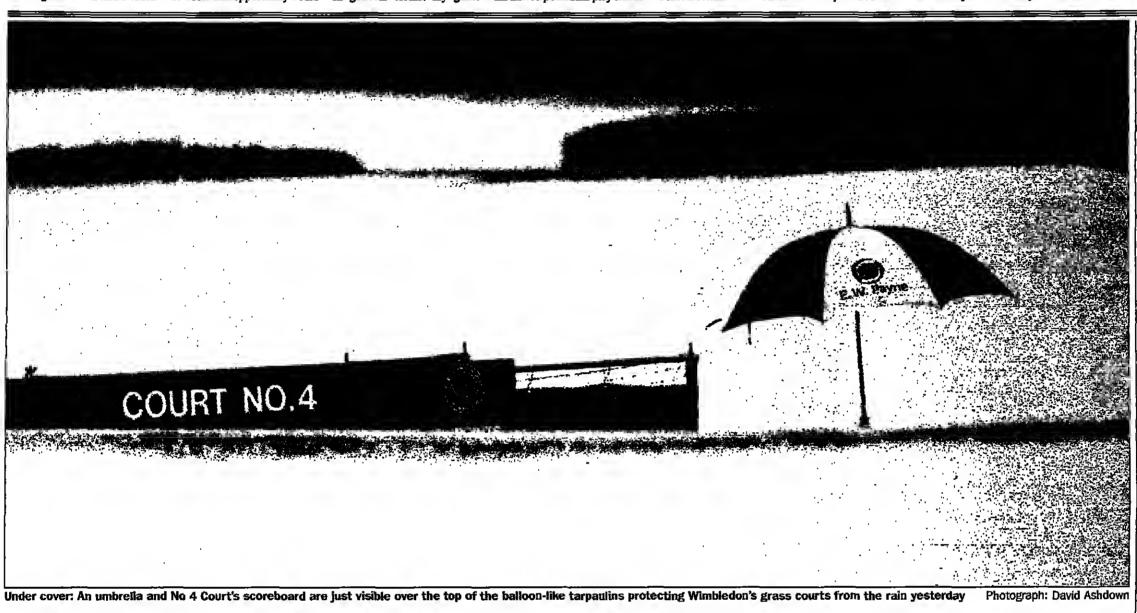
mined to press our case to the full," United's chief executive,

Charles Green. said. "Howard Kendall may be at Everton today

ceived no letter of resignation."

With compensation negotia-

Football ALAN NIXON AND PHIL SHAW



No. 3336. Friday 27 June

Germs mostly returned? One's sick, on reflection

(7)
5 Vehicle completely overturned, carrying one icecream ingredient (7) 9 Mood supplied by cosmetics is something to

build on (10,5) 10 See! Cream reduced parts of ears (5)

II Width and height seeable. possibly - this is indicative 1 of a car's length (9)

12 Seaside resort's favourite display of luxury (3,6)

14 The Underworld - a dark area, first to last (5)

15 Supporting United, and dead boastful! (5) 16 Bet hrowser is a church-

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



wild way (9) Some infection (as always) in the nose (5)

huge, tail off (5) 22 Causing some disgraceful behaviour out of the public eye? (6,3,6) 23 Unhappy about church's uncanny ability (7) 24 Measurement of acidity cissy dodged in Science

DOWN A difficult problem for fellows caught in farm Gave cash for party activi-

ty and went on a group rave? (7,8) (5)
Dismal day upset servant 20 Finish off with item of rave? (7.8)

Being dragged within capital of Wales (2,3)

pled garment (9)

21 Exploding stars, never

18 Finished run in this crum- 5 Not lively, but moving in a

Artist - divine and cool

RA at work (8,2,5) Like unpaid jobs woman avoided for ever (7) 13 China's obscure railway lines are studied in this

14 Excitement from shade with a shriek (3,3.3) 15 Sun almost ruined after unrealistic hope (7) 17 Pauses to bold one's checks (7) 19 Burn to chant end of tune

menswear more expensive

Sunday play a happy option for everyone except police

Tennis JOHN ROBERTS reports from Wimbledon



What does a Slazenger Wimhledon high visihility

(between 6.35 and 6.67 centimetres in diameter. weighing between 56.7 and 58.5 grams and stored at between 21C and 22C) do in the rain? Nothing.

The wet weather has had such a worrying effect on the tournament that playing on Sunday is not so much the issue as which Sunday?

After the second worst start in the history of the championships - only 1991 has been worse, so far - and not much respite in the conditions in prospect, Alan Mills, the referee, wonders when the tournament will end.

"As far as we can see into it. it's five days of not too hopeful weather," Mills said last night, after the first complete washout of a day's play since 1992. There are sort of spells and windows amongst it, but there isn't one day when it says we're going to have a fine, clear, warm, sunny day, even in the middle of flaming June." The wettest June, in fact,

since 1987. "Playing on Sunday is obvi-

ously an option we are seriously considering at the moment," Mills confirmed, "but it is not just in the Cluh's hands as to whether we can do it. We've got to get permission from the council

and the police before we can even contemplate doing it." The police do not appear keen on a repetition of People's Sunday '91. Inspector Philip Coates, who is in charge of security, said: "The Cluh have previously said they wouldn't want to play on the middle Sunday. When it happened in 1991, it caused so many problems the

general view was we didn't

want to do it again.' Mills, while acknowledging logistical difficulties, has fond memories of a unique occasion. I personally thought the middle Sunday in '91 was probably the most inspiring day that I have spent at Wimbledon," he said. "The people and the atmosphere was just electric, and I thought it was an absolutely great suc-

He added, "But also, weatherwise, we did have a forecast for the Sunday in 1991 that said it was going to be a good day. It would be, let us say, a bit silly of us if we, knowing the other commitments

weather forecast, open up everything and we spend a day like today. So that's another consideration that has to be taken into account."

So what next? "We keep soldiering on and playing as many matches as we can," Mills said. We have a certain number of rest days built into the second week from the singles players' point of view. The longer it goes on like this, the more chance they keep losing their rest days and they will have to play matches hack-to-back.

"We've aiready out the doubles down to three sets. We have still got 28 ladies who haven't finished their first round singles. We've got six men who are unfinished in their first round singles. So we've got 34 matches that are an absolute priority to play."

Might the situation call for reducing the men's singles to the best of three sets? "It hasn't been done, as far as I can remember, but again that's another option

And would there be a time limit if the championships go Tuesday would prohably be a deadline, because players have

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had the Club made a mistake in not having a retractable roof.?

Tim Phillips, chairman of

Wimbledon's order of play subcommittee, said: "This is an old chestnut. So will there never be a roof? "I don't think anybody would say never, but we have con-

sidered it from every single angle, not least from the players' angle, and the view of the moment is where we are. "On the question of rain, in

terms of putting a giant umbrella over the championships. it would be lovely to do it. We haven't found the practical solution that answers all the issues. One of the main considerations is the fact that this is an outdoor tournament. It's a grass court tournament, and what about the players who don't play on a covcred court?"

So why not floodlights and night play? "Because then the grass gets dewy and slippery."
Mills added, "This is another answer to the lights question. The BBC did a trial, and all the

moths arrive on the court." How about taking up the grass. then! Mills interjected, "I don't think that needs an answer." Meantime, as a sage once

said, they wait who ought to

stand and serve. And so too do

but legally he is still an employ-ee of Sheffield United. We've re-Having invested some £100m in a new No 1 Court complex,

tions ongoing, caretaker-man-ager Nigel Spackman seems destined to shoulder the role of team manager when the players report back for training and possihly into the new season. Roy Hodgson will make

Swedish international Anders Andersson his second signing for Blackhurn. The Malmö midfielder follows Patrick Valery. who flew in yesterday to finalise a player-exchange with striker Niklas Gudmundsson, both rated at £1m. Anderson came § through the ranks at Malmo under Hodgson a few years ago.

Man Le Tessier has signed a new four-year contract with Southampton. The deal ties Le Tissier, 28, to The Dell until the end of the 2000/2001 season and ends speculation of a big-money transfer.

The Leicester manager, Martin O'Neill, was bitter vesterday about the departure of Simon Grayson to Asion Villa. The defender turned down a new deal at Filbert Street to join the former Leicester manager Brian Little on a three-year deal.

We thought we were very close to an agreement." O'Neill said. "This has come out of the hlue." Leicester will demand around £1.5m for the 27-year-old. Newcastle hope to sign the England wouth international

Danny Murphy in a £2.5m deal

in the next 48 hours.

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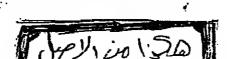
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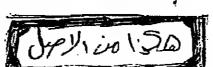
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